

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
8TH - 15TH JULY 1987

VIBORG, DENMARK

MINUTES



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(Original)

The Lutheran World Federation  
Executive Committee Meeting

8 - 15 July 1987

Viborg, Denmark

M I N U T E S

1. OPENING WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS

(1)

The opening eucharist worship was held in Viborg Cathedral on the evening of Wednesday, 8 July 1987 and was led by the Very Rev. Dean Karsten Nissen with several assistants from the host church and from among members of the Executive Committee. In the course of the service, Bishop Georg Geil of Viborg Cathedral brought a greeting of welcome to the participants. The daily morning devotions were held in the nearby Asmild Kirche by pastors from the Lutheran church of Denmark and the evening devotions were held in the plenary hall led by members of the Executive Committee and LWF staff.

2. FORMAL OPENING OF BUSINESS SESSION

(2)

Dr. S. Nababan formally opened the Executive Committee Meeting by announcing the sad news of the death of President Zoltan Kaldy. He led the meeting in a prayer, and a few minutes silence were observed by the participants.

3. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, GREETINGS

(3)

The roll call (EXHIBIT 3) was taken by the Associate General Secretary.

### 3.1 Greetings

(4)

The General Secretary welcomed all guests attending the meeting, and introduced Bishop Getake Gam from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua Guinea, Bishop Chilstrom, the newly elected Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his wife Corinne Chilstrom, and Bishop K. H. Ting who represented the China Christian Council.

Greetings were received from the following participants

3.1.1 Bishop Chilstrom thanked the General Secretary for inviting him and his wife to the 40 anniversary celebration of the LWF in Lund and to the meeting of the Executive Committee in Viborg. He referred to the enormous task of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to organize a huge new entity. Most of the 65 synod conventions have already been held and more than 40 of the 65 bishops are new to that office. He assured the Executive Committee that the ELCA will be a full and vigorous partner in the LWF, just as were the three merging churches.

(5)

Bishop Hanstelmann expressed appreciation for the constructive collaboration of the 3 merging churches of the ELCA. He thanked Bishop Crumley and Bishop Preus for all they had contributed theologically and personally. He then referred to the significant contribution to the life of the LWF of two of its former presidents: Franklin Clark Fry and Frederik A. Schiotz both of whom came from the USA. He thanked Bishop Chilstrom for his presence in Lund and in Viborg and asked him to convey the greetings of the LWF to the ELCA. He wished him God's blessing, strength and wisdom for his new task and assured him that he was looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with the new church.

(6)

3.1.2 Bishop K. H. Ting, China Christian Council, said he was very pleased and thankful to be able to bring greetings from fellow Christians in China. He mentioned that there was no Lutheran church in China today, which he hoped was not felt as a loss. At first they had not felt at ease with the post-denominational phase in China when it began about 28 years ago, but now it was seen as a great and providential opportunity for the Chinese Christians working together to be more effective in evangelization. None of the denominations had claimed to be the true Church, but felt themselves to be part of the one holy and apostolic church. The different denominations had all worked together towards unity and were now united in the China Christian Council. He said they had three aims: (1) to serve the churches, (2) to represent them socially, politically and internationally, and (3) to guide the teaching, organization and life of the Christian Church as the body of Christ in building itself up. He also said they felt close to Lutheranism, not only because of the

(7)

leadership many Chinese Lutheran church people gave to the Three-Self movement and the CCC in their formative stages, but also because in the LWF they find a body which conscientiously puts the new missiology into practice in its relation to China. It takes their Three-Self principle seriously. He concluded by saying that he look forward to closer bond of unity between LWF and Chinese Christians in the future.

The General Secretary responded on behalf of the LWF by giving thanks to God for Bishop Ting's presence, which was of historic significance, and brought joy and inspiration to the meeting. He asked Bishop Ting to take back the greetings of the LWF and he wished God's blessings to the China Council of Churches and all Christians in that country. (8)

3.1.3 Monsignor John A. Radano from the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity brought greetings from Cardinal Willebrands and other colleagues in the Secretariat. He felt that the exchange of observers between the Secretariat and the LWF was important, that the contacts between the two were increasing, and that the third phase of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue was going well. (9)

3.1.4 Dr. Klaus Poser, World Council of Churches, brought greetings from the Council and the General Secretary, Dr. Emilio Castro. He said, as Director of the Commission for Interchurch Aid, Refugees and World Service, that his department had particularly close and friendly working relations with the LWF on crucial issues such as South Africa, Ethiopia and Drought Relief. It was the first time he had attended an Executive Committee meeting of the LWF and was very happy to be there. Dr. Nababan said that Dr. Castro's presence and sermon had been much valued in Lund at the LWF 40th Anniversary Celebrations. (10)

3.1.5 Dr. Jean Fischer, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, said he was pleased to be able to bring greetings from his organization to the LWF Executive Committee meeting being held in Denmark, the birthplace of the Conference. He was delighted to participate in the meeting especially as the Conference had voted to activate its role in mission and witness in Europe and were hoping for close collaboration with other church organizations. He said that as the CEC had an Orthodox Chairperson, an Anglican Vice-President and that a Baptist General Secretary had been replaced by a Reformed one, they were continuing a good ecumenical tradition. CEC valued contributions of churches from East and West Europe. Up until now, many European churches had been content to express their ecumenical commitment through the WCC but they were increasingly recognizing the value of working through the Conference. (11)

3.1.6 The Rev. George B. Braund, brought greetings and good wishes from the Anglican Consultative Council, and mentioned the valuable contribution that the LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs had made to the recent meeting of the Council in Singapore. Dr. Jonas Jonson's knowledge of the region had been particularly helpful. He said the theme had been "unity in Diversity" so that he felt the ACC and LWF were about the same business in effect. He hoped the organizations would be able to search together to give concrete substance to the goal of unity, particularly through practical cooperation as had been experienced in the recent Namibia consultation. (12)

3.1.7 Mr. Ralph Young, World Methodist Council, brought greetings and expressed his pleasure to be representing the WMC for the third time at the LWF Executive Committee Meeting. He referred to the conference held in Nairobi last year at which Methodist churches in 90 countries had been represented, and Bishop Kolowa had brought greetings from LWF. At that meeting they had received the report of the Joint Commission of the WMC and LWF, which had been sent to 64 countries worldwide for study and action. He was pleased to report that in some places, notably FRG, Lutheran and Methodist churches had agreed "to declare and establish full fellowship of Word and Sacrament", a real step towards unity. He said that the Lutheran World Federation's search for its own identity was very interesting to the WMC, not least because there were divisions among Methodists in many countries. He said he would pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the discussions at the Executive Committee. (13)

3.1.8 The Rev. Dr. Gösta Hedberg, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, brought greetings from WARC, including the Presbyterians and Congregationalists as well. He brought greeting in particular from Dr. Allan Boesak the WARC President, and from the General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Edmond Perret. He said that when with such a group of Lutheran friends he felt himself to be at an ecumenical meeting. He wished God's blessings for the Federation and its meeting, and particularly for its ongoing ecumenical work. (14)

#### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIME SCHEDULE

##### 4.1 Agenda and Time Schedule (15)

The General Secretary introduced the agenda and time schedule for the meeting in detail. He explained that the death of President Kaldy had necessitated the election of a new President. The Standing Subcommittee on Constitution had considered the question of the procedure to be followed, and the

second session of the meeting had been set aside for their report and, if the Executive Committee were in agreement, for the election to go ahead..

With this alteration, the Executive Committee (16)

VOTED: to adopt the agenda and time schedule with the understanding that changes could be made in the course of the meeting if required.

#### 4.2 Rules of Procedure (17)

Attention was drawn to presently obtaining Rules of Procedure contained in the agenda as EXHIBIT 4.2R.

### 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (18)

The Minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting were approved with the following correction:

Under item 11, Ecumenical Relations, referring to EXHIBIT 11.1.9, the following resolution should be included: (19)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to authorize the General Secretary to send a communication to the member churches in 1987

a) calling attention to the progress made in international ecumenical relationships of various kinds (i.e. not only in dialogues) over the past two decades,

b) pointing to the implications of the communion concept for Lutheran self-understanding and for the unity of the church,  
and

c) encouraging them to intensify their own ecumenical posture and engagement.

### 7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (20)

The General Secretary presented his report (EXHIBIT 7 attached) which as requested by the Executive Committee during its last meeting pursued the understanding of communion as contained in the General Secretary's first report to the committee by focusing on the spirituality which communion implies, and the broad spectrum which that spirituality covers.

Bishop Johannes Hanselmann who had taken the chair for this session expressed his appreciation to the General Secretary for his detailed report. He welcomed the General Secretary's reflections on spirituality inherent in the concept of communion and pointed out that these reflections should be seen as an additional challenge in pursuing the previously expressed theological founda- (21)

tions for the concept of communion which had also received wide attention in Germany.

The discussion focused on the following issues:

(22)

- Several speakers expressed appreciation for the fact that the theological reflections on spirituality had been connected to practical examples which gave a more concrete meaning to the concept of communion.

- Bishop Gyula Nagy, newly elected member to the Executive Committee took this opportunity to state that the true meaning of community had found its expression also during the long illness of Bishop Zoltan Kaldy and at the funeral in May when numerous member churches and organizations worldwide had supported the Lutheran Church in Hungary in prayers and commemoration services. On behalf of the Lutheran Church in Hungary, Bishop Nagy expressed his gratitude for the spiritual support.

(23)

- Bishop Hanselmann on behalf of the Executive Committee asked that Bishop Nagy convey his greetings to the Lutheran Church in Hungary.

(24)

- It was felt that although the affirmation of the direction given in the concept of communion had previously by some been accepted in a theologically guarded way, the reflections contained in this report on spirituality of communion had enhanced the understanding of the matter. The constitution of the Lutheran World Federation does not fully express where the churches as a communion find themselves today. It was seen as essential that the issue receive continued attention in order to develop these thoughts further for the agenda of the next Assembly. The concept of communion should comprise the following three dimensions: the theological sacramental, sociological and the ethical dimension.

(25)

- A difference of opinion was expressed when the discussion centered on the understanding of spirituality in regard to the religious and worldly realms. The point was made that a distinction should be upheld describing goals and defining the means to reach such goals. This opinion was challenged by a member of the Executive Committee who pointed out that different ways could be chosen in order to reach a goal and that a politically oriented church would cease to be a church for people from different camps. In response to this another member pointed out that here the reflections on spirituality only truthfully followed the mandate as assigned to the Federation by the Seventh Assembly in Budapest. A firm position on issues like human rights and disarmament for example only reflected the churches commitment to law and gospel.

(26)

- The General Secretary in his reply and by citing examples stated that in some instances the means could not be separated from the goals and that the urgency of certain decisions forced the church to choose the most effective, if not the most desirable way.

(27)

- The fact that a delegation of the Christian Peace Conference (CPC) had been received by the Lutheran World Federation was seen as important by the Executive Committee in LWF's efforts

(28)

to explore additional possibilities to broaden its work for peace. The fact that Bishop Johannes Hanselmann and Bishop Dr. David Preus as Vice-Presidents of the LWF had attended the meeting was appreciated.

- The laity question raised by the General Secretary received renewed attention and positive response. The discussion confirmed the need to place this item again on the agenda of the Federation. (29)
- The dimension of world mission and reevangelization was emphasized as an intrinsic element in the understanding of spirituality of communion. The General Secretary raised the question as to whether it would not be appropriate when thinking about the new structures for the LWF to reclaim the terminology "mission and evangelization". (30)
- The Executive Committee's attention was also drawn to the debt issue, and to the fact that this issue was on the agenda of the 7th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) now in Geneva, where the LWF was represented by five members. It was urged that the LWF give this matter its continued attention as a priority in preparation for the next Assembly. (31)
- The concern - that our sense of being an inclusive communion which should seek a relevant expression of spirituality in regard to the suffering and the afflicted, received the Executive Committee's attention when it (32)

VOTED: that a consultation be called of people actively involved in pastoral counseling, diaconic care and theological reflection on AIDS to share experiences and develop guidelines for a responsible Christian approach to the problem in its different social, national and theological aspects. The consultation should be called if possible in close cooperation with persons and organizations already involved in this field. (33)

The General Secretary expressed his appreciation for the frank exchange of thoughts as well as critical reflections on his report. He gratefully acknowledged that as usual the report in itself was an expression of communion as several staff members had been involved in the process of bringing forth this report. (34)

The General Secretary once again expressed his appreciation to the Officers for giving him support through advice, participation in conferences and visits to member churches during the long illness of Bishop Kaldy. The General Secretary in his acknowledgment said that, in future, he would also hope to be able to count on the active involvement of members of the Executive Committee through representation at conferences and on other occasions. (35)

8. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(36)

8.1 Election of a President

Dr. Augusto Kunert opened the session and asked Bishop Crumley to explain the procedure for election of the new president.

After introducing the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution, Part I (EXHIBIT 17 attached), Bishop Crumley emphasized the seriousness of this issue and proposed that one of its members lead the Executive Committee in prayer before the election. He then pointed out that no discussion of the nominees would take place.

(37)

After discussion of the procedure for election the Executive Committee

(38)

VOTED: a. that point 3 of the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution be amended as follows: "that the balloting process be conducted in an open session ..."

b. that the following point be added: "In the event that a ballot shall result in fewer names for the next ballot than is specified by the process, the number of the succeeding ballot shall be determined by the number of candidates. For example, if the second ballot would result in only 3 names, the succeeding ballot would be guided by the provision for ballot number 4."

(39)

Dr. Kunert asked the members of the Standing Committee on Constitution, acting as Election Committee, to distribute the ballot sheets. 28 members of the Executive Committee were present (2 absent).

(40)

The Election Committee reported on the first ballot as follows:

(41)

Ballots cast	28
Invalid ballot	0
Necessary for election	19
Hanselmann	16
Nababan	5
Preus	3
Crumley	2
Kunert	1
Telewoda	1

There was not election.

Dr. Kunert, Ephorus Nababan and Ms. Telewoda asked that their names be withdrawn.

(42)

The Election Committee reported the results of the second

(43)

ballot.	
Ballots cast	28
Invalid ballots	0
Necessary for election	19

Hanselmann	19
Preus	5
Crumley	4

The result of the second ballot was: 28 votes were cast, 19 for Bishop Hanselmann, 5 for Bishop Preus and 4 for Bishop Crumley. (44)

Dr. Kunert declared Bishop Hanselmann elected as new President, since he had a two thirds majority of the votes cast. He wished him God's rich blessing, continuous grace and the health for his new office. (45)

Bishop Hanselmann addressed the plenary by thanking the Executive Committee for the confidence shown in him through his election to the presidency of the LWF: "I hope and pray to God, that I will be able to fulfill your expectations." Then he quoted from two Bible passages for this day: 2 Chronicles 15:7: "But you take courage. Do not let your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded." Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." He assured the Executive Committee that he will ensure continuity in the work in the LWF in taking serious the developments of the past 40 years and in following the six functions laid down in the Constitution. He closed his address in saying that our witness and our service are offered to the honor of God and to the benefit of LWF. (46)

The General Secretary expressed his great joy on behalf of the 122 member staff in Geneva and the 5000 field workers. He assured the new President of the prayer, cooperation and understanding of the staff and the Executive Committee in working toward the next Assembly. (47)

The session was adjourned with prayers.

## 8.2 Vacancies on the Executive Committee (48)

It was agreed that the next matter to be settled should be the filling of the vacancies on the Executive Committee resulting from the death of President Kaldy, the retirement of Bishop Rapoo and the end of the three year term of the Youth Consultants. The Associate General Secretary gave a report on the situation as follows:

8.2.1 To replace President Kaldy on the Executive Committee, a letter had been received from the Lutheran Church in Hungary nominating Bishop Nagy. The Executive Committee (49)

VOTED: To accept Bishop Gyula Nagy on the Executive Committee in replacement of Bishop Kaldy.

As Bishop Nagy was present, he was congratulated by the members of the Executive Committee and invited to take his seat on the committee straight away. (50)

8.2.2 A letter had also been received from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa asking that Bishop Serote be accepted on the Executive Committee, following the retirement of Bishop Rapoo. The Executive Committee (51)

VOTED: To accept Bishop Solomon E. Serote on the Executive Committee in replacement of Bishop Rapoo.

The General Secretary then informed the Executive Committee that Bishop Serote was unfortunately unable to take his seat on the committee as he had been unable to obtain travel documents from the South African Government. This was not the first time he had been unable to participate in LWF meetings for this reason. The General Secretary proposed firstly that a letter of congratulation be sent from the Executive Committee to Bishop Serote, and secondly that a cable be sent to the South African government protesting at the refusal to grant him an exit visa. (52)

The Executive Committee (53)

VOTED: (1) to send a letter of congratulation to Bishop Solomon Serote on his appointment to the Executive Committee;

(2) to send a cable to the South African government protesting the refusal to grant Bishop Serote travel documents to attend the Executive Committee Meeting.

The General Secretary was asked to have drafts of the letter and cable prepared for circulation and discussion. (54)

### 8.2.3 Nomination of Youth Consultants (55)

The Associate General Secretary reported on the procedure previously agreed for selecting Youth Consultants to the Executive Committee, that the General Secretary should request member churches to propose names of suitable candidates below the age of 30 for election by the Officers, and that the selection should take place in time for those chosen to attend the next Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee: (56)

VOTED: to ask the General Secretary to approach the member churches requesting nominations for two Youth Consultants to be elected by the

Officers in time for those selected to participate in the 1988 Executive Committee Meeting.

### 8.3 Agenda Committees

(57)

The Associate General Secretary introduced a proposal from the Officers for agenda committees composed of members of the Executive Committee, Consultants, Advisers, and supported by staff members to work on the following issues and report to plenary: (1) South Africa /Namibia - Confessional Integrity, Namibia Consultation, (2) The Palestinian - Israeli Issue, (3) Ethiopia - LWF involvement, (4) Women - their role in member churches and LWF. Other participants at the meeting were invited to attend any committee which interested them, but it was indicated that the discussions in committee meetings were closed in the sense and the transfer of one participant to another committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to accept the Officers proposed list of agenda committees comprising Executive Committee Members, Consultants and advisers on the four matters as listed: (1) South Africa /Namibia - Confessional Integrity, Namibia Consultation, (2) The Palestinian - Israeli Issue, (3) Ethiopia - LWF involvement, (4) Women - their role in member churches and LWF.

(58)

(See also item 10.8 below, regarding the agenda committee on Personnel Matters).

### 8.4 Election of Vice-President

(59)

The President asked the Standing Committee on Constitution, acting once again as the Election Committee, to proceed with the election of the sixth Vice President on the same basis as for the election of the the President.

The first ballot was cast

The Election Committee reported on the first ballot as follows:

(60)

Ballots cast 27

Invalid ballot 0

Needed for election 18

Haddad 15

Leich 8

Aarflot 2

Rogestam 1

Gienke 1

There was no election.

Bishop Aarflot, Ms Rogestam and Bishop Gienke asked for their names to be withdrawn.

(61)

The second ballot was cast.

The Election Committee reported the results of the second and final ballot.

(62)

Ballots cast 27

Invalid ballots	0
Necessary for election	14
Haddad	15
Leich	12

The President declared Ms Aida Haddad elected as Vice-President (63) since she had a simple majority of the votes cast, the only requirement on the final ballot.

Ms Haddad thanked the President, the Vice-President and her brothers and sisters on the Executive Committee in the name of Jesus Christ for the confidence they had placed in her by electing her Vice-President. She said she hoped to fulfill their expectations of her in the coming years and asked to be remembered in their prayers. (64)

The President congratulated her on behalf of the meeting and said (65) that he had hopes they would all work well together. He invited Ms Haddad to take her place on the top table immediately.

## 9. REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS (66)

### 9.1 Report on the Joint Commission Meetings, April 1987

Dr. Anza Lema, Associate General Secretary, highlighted the Joint Commission report (EXHIBIT 9.1).

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the report.

### 9.2 Commission on World Service (67)

The Most Rev. Munshi Tudu, Chairperson of the Commission on World Service, presented several highlights from the April 1987 Commission on World Service meeting. Bishop Tudu expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for dialogue which the Joint Commission meetings had provided.

The Commission adopted the report from its Advisory Subcommittee of the World Service Office for Research and Social Action which addressed among several other topics the social and economic justice questions in the member churches in preparation for the next Assembly; as well as global economic inequities. Another highlight of Bishop Tudu's reporting was the briefing of the follow-up of activities related to the Churches' Development Action in Africa (CDAA) and his reference to three service program evaluations over the past year, in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Jordan West Bank. (68)

Bishop Tudu acknowledged gratefully the invitation from the Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP) to hold the recent meeting of the CDS Governing Committee in North Sumatra. (69)

Bishop Tudu expressed his pleasure about the fact that the (70)

meeting of the Commission on World Service in April 1988 will take place in Madras/India.

Dr. Eugene Ries, Director of the Department of World Service, referred to his report to the Executive Committee as contained in the Agenda under EXHIBIT 9.2. Dr. Ries in his presentation shared with the committee five of the major present and future challenges and opportunities facing World Service in the years to come: (71)

- The Joint Relief Program operation by EECMY and LWF/WS was in its third year and played a major role in the ecumenical feeding program in Ethiopia which aided 700,000 people in 1986. (72)

- A significant development took place in 1986 regarding the future working relationship between the EECMY and the LWF/WS when a Letter of Understanding was signed between Ato Francis Stephanos and the Director of the Department of World Service. This letter underscores the close working relationship and clarifies the roles of each partner. The EECMY will take greater responsibility for long-term development programs, relief will continue to be a joint undertaking, and LWF/WS will be responsible for refugee work. (73)

- The Director referred to the visit of a LWF delegation led by the General Secretary in September 1986 at which time consultations had taken place with Ato Francis Stephanos in regard to all aspects of LWF work. Dr. Ries expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome the delegation had received and the open and frank discussions that had taken place. (74)

- The major preoccupation of the LWF/WS program in Jerusalem and on the West Bank has been the planning for the renovation program of the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) which WS has owned and administered since 1950 on behalf of the Protestant Churches in the FRG. Major repair work is required and after three years of negotiations, the necessary funds were almost completely assured. The major evaluation of the WS/J-WB program in 1987 in which Ms Aida Haddad and Mr. Karl Dummmler had participated reaffirmed the great need for the AVH and other WS work in that area. (75)

- Due to the desperate famine situation in Mozambique which is regarded by the United Nations as parallel to the one in Ethiopia two years ago, LWF/WS increased its aid program there from US\$ 1 to 3 million in 1987. (76)

- The Caribbean/Haitian Program is focusing more and more on Haiti itself as it concentrates on supporting the structure of the Christian labor/peasant movement, CATH, the literacy program run by the Methodist Church as well the restocking of pigs in cooperation with the local Catholic partners. Haiti is the poorest nation in the Americas although there is hope that the first free elections in its history may help the political and economic situation. (77)

- The Director gave an outline of the LWF strategy for the Frontline States in the ecumenical context. It contained (78)

the following points:

1. Joint support of the Zimbabwe Christian Council Frontline States Documentation and Information Center in Harare, Zimbabwe by the World Association for Christian Communication and the LWF/Department of Communication. (79)
2. LWF/WS plans to strengthen its operational presence in the Frontline States in cooperation with member churches Christian Councils, the governments concerned, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, so that World Service can assist up to 100,000 refugees in emergency situation. (80)
3. The LWF should encourage its member churches to urge their governments to continue sanctions against South Africa. (81)
4. The LWF should encourage its member churches to urge their governments to fund alternate communications routes for the Frontline States, so that most Frontline States' trade does not need to transit South Africa. (82)

In follow-up of these important policy questions, an LWF delegation will visit the Frontline States' LWF member churches, Christian Councils and government in 1988. (83)

In concluding his presentation, the Director briefly pointed to the following six present and future forms of WS partnership with LWF member churches: (84)

1. Intensified WS cooperation with LWF member churches. (85)
2. Increased WS cooperation with the World Council of Churches and Christian Councils. Dr. Ries added that the CICARWS/WCC and LWF/WS had intensified their cooperation and partnership in areas such as resettlement, relief and development work, both in regard to policy questions as well as in regard to staff cooperation. (86)
3. Greater stress on Social and Economic Justice questions and Human Rights through the LWS/WS Office for Research and Social Action. (87)
4. Training by LWF/WS in relief and development work of Churches' and Christian Councils' diaconic staff. (88)
5. More assistance to people who have become refugees in their own lands (i.e. El Salvador, Angola) (89)
6. Additional efforts will be made to fill future vacant positions for Executive staff in Geneva from Asia, Africa and Latin America and take into account the needed balance between women and men Executives. (90)

Ms Christa Held, Director of CDS of the Department of World Service presented her report (EXHIBIT 9.2.3 of the Agenda). She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hold the CDS Governing Committee meeting in Indonesia this year which (91)

provided an excellent occasion for members and participants from all other Indonesian Churches as well as guests from a number of Asian sister churches and representatives of WS offices in the region for sharing of information. It has also made the work of CDS more transparent. Ms Held acknowledged with appreciation the warm hospitality of the HKBP which was extended during the meeting. (92)

In highlighting her written report to the Executive Committee, the WS/CDS Director drew attention to the following points: (93)

- On the occasion of the CDS Governing Committee in Indonesia, several committee members and consultants had the occasion to visit different churches in Indonesia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore, India and the Philippines for an exchange of views on different issues. (94)

- A number of evaluations have taken place in different countries: (95)

a. A development consultation was held in Addis Ababa in September 1986. Ato Francis Stephanos, President of the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus emphasized the holistic understanding of the ministry as it is understood by his church.

b. Another consultation of importance had taken place in Tanzania in January in 1987, during which participants concerned themselves with finding ways to assure the future running of the largest single project CDS had ever sponsored, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. The deliberations by all concerned resulted in recommendations which should prove beneficial to the KCMC and its partners. (96)

c. Increased attention and emphasis are given to the service of consultants and South/North exchange as well as training programs. (97)

d. In close cooperation with the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches, the World Health Organization and with other LWF departments, appropriate steps are being considered to provide information and assistance to churches engaged in schemes to diagnose and prevent spreading of AIDS and AIDS-related disorders, and to provide spiritual care to the sick and their families. (98)

Following these reports, the discussion centered on: (99)

- the need to achieve a balance between development aid and pastoral care and the concern that long-term programs do not surpass the member churches' financial capacities at a later stage.

- In his reply, the Director drew the attention of the Executive Committee to a draft paper entitled "LWF/WS Programs - (100)

Reflections on Christian Witness and Partnership in Service" which is being written on request of the General Secretary. He reflected briefly on the content of the report which is reviewing the mandate and Terms of Reference of World Service and which looks at WS relationships with the member churches and their diaconic entities. Responses and actions were also received by other LWF departments and the draft paper was also presented to the Commission on World Service at its last meeting for discussion and guidance.

(101)

- Appreciation was shown for the thorough way in which the evaluation program of the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) had been carried out and for the fact that an Executive Committee member was involved in the task.

(102)

- The cooperation between WCC/CICARWS and the Department of World Service was gratefully acknowledged.

(103)

- Appreciation was expressed for the efficiency and urgency in which the many aspects of the department's work were carried out. An example was cited as to how member churches in Eastern Europe could be involved in development programs like the Lutheran Church in Hungary which had sent a water expert to Zimbabwe. In this context the need was emphasized for continued research as to the root causes for social and economic justice. Here the outstanding work of the Office for Research and Social Action (ORSA) was recognized.

(104)

- The presence of the WS/CDS in Indonesia was gratefully acknowledged and the assistance given by the department to victims of the last earthquake was greatly appreciated in that country.

(105)

The reports were received with appreciation.

Dr. Gene Ries was invited to present the revised text of EXHIBIT 9.2.4, concerning the self-understanding of the Lutheran World Federation to serve human need through programs of humanitarian aid. There was concern expressed that the reference to Christian Witness and Service had not been included. The assurance was given that the Department of World Service was at present working on a paper dealing with these issues and that this document would be brought to the next Executive Committee in due course.

(106)

On the understanding that minor editorial changes would be made in the German text, the Executive Committee

(107)

VOTED: to accept the resolution of WS 9.2.4 as follows:

LWF World Service is operative in many regions of the world and endeavours to aid persons in need irrespective of race, religion, nationality, sex or political persuasion. Similarly, the LWF also maintains its concern for human rights.

(108)

Based on the Gospel, and as part of the mandate of the Church, providing such humanitarian aid to people in need is an expression of our Christian concern. For the LWF this means neither support to nor rejection of the policy of any given government, political power, party, or administrative authority.

(109)

### 9.3 Commission on Church Cooperation

(110)

Dr. Dorothy Marple introduced the report on the Commission on Church Cooperation and explained that she, Dr. Lehtonen and Bishop Dumeni would be referring to the different 9.3 exhibits in their shared reporting (EXHIBITS 9.3ff of the agenda). Dr. Marple began with an appeal to the Executive Committee to offer some guidelines on what is expected from the Commission in the way of reporting and what its role was in relation to the Commission (discussing issues, examining policy?). She then went on to explain that the starting point for this year's report of the Director of DCC had been the Lund Assembly and what their statements and aims said to DCC today.

Dr. Lehtonen then referred to his report, EXHIBIT 9.3.1 and highlighted some points.

(111)

Dr. Marple said there was need to recover the sense of urgency that had been felt at the Lund Assembly. She said that CCC/DCC believed churches were sensing this urgency in mission. The urgency was one factor which had led the Budapest Assembly to approve the paper on Mission and Evangelism and adopt the "Guidelines for Joint Action in Mission" which gave important bases for the Department to build on. The "LWF Statement on Mission" was underway as requested by the 1985 Executive Committee, and a final draft should be ready for the the 1988 Executive Committee Meeting. The DCC staff were also working on a study guide for adaptation by Lutheran churches worldwide. Dr. Marple then referred to EXHIBIT 9.3.4 which outlined areas for action arising out of the Budapest paper. She highlighted three areas for emphasis: Mission in Urban areas; Theological Education in Africa; the Youth program.

(112)

Then Bishop Dumeni was invited to report on the recent meeting held in Antsirabe, Madagascar, the All Africa Lutheran Churches Conference. He said that representatives of nearly all the LWF member churches in Africa were there along with representatives of some of the emerging Lutheran Churches. This meeting with 100 participants was one which would only take place once between assemblies. The Malagasy Lutheran Church, a growing church, touched by revival - was an excellent host.

(113)

Bishop Dumeni highlighted two aspects of the meeting. The main theme of the consultation dealt with mission in urban areas. Most Lutheran churches in Africa had their roots in the villages while many members were joining the drift to the towns and cities. The problems of slum dwellers, unemployment, prostitution, drugs in the fast growing cities were not being effectively handled by the church. The Lutheran

(114)

churches in Africa need to work together to deal with these problems and also to serve the more fortunate members of their urban congregations - the professionals, the students etc. The second matter he chose to highlight was the fact that the meeting itself was such a valuable opportunity for African church leaders to get together. In general there tended to be more communication between churches in the North and in Africa than between churches within Africa. Consequently there could be areas of ignorance regarding each other's problems. This sort of opportunity helped the churches to support one another. He hoped that the LWF would in future facilitate their meetings, and also help prepare their contribution to mission on other continents, since they wished to be giving as well as receiving churches.

Dr. Marple then referred to EXHIBIT 9.3 point 4, a proposal to establish an Advisory Committee on Mission in Cities and Industrial areas in Africa with a list of 7 names. Having considered the proposal the Executive Committee (115)

VOTED: to accept the recommendation of the Commission on Church Cooperation to establish a seven person advisory committee on Mission in Cities and Industrial Areas in Africa, and to accept the nominations of the following people: (116)

- Mrs. C. Stewart, Lutheran Church in Liberia
- Rev. Yadesi Daba, EECMY
- Mrs. Kisima Kya Ngoy, Ev. Luth. Community-Zaire East
- Rev. G. Hermann, ELC Tanzania
- Miss Faravololona, Malagasy Lutheran Church
- Rev. H. P. Davids, ELCSA
- Rev. J. E. Utim, Lutheran Church of Nigeria

At this point the Chairperson, Bishop Preus, welcomed two African visitors to the meeting, Ato Francis Stephanos President of EECMY and Rev. Jean Fenomanana, General Secretary of the Malagasy National Committee. (117)

After referring to work being carried out in theological education, and the fact that the program for Theological Education in Africa was moving ahead again, Dr. Marple turned to the question of the Youth Program, and a recommendation in EXHIBIT 9.3 item 6 calling for a Pre-Assembly Youth Gathering organized by the DCC Youth Desk. After some discussion affirming the good, creative work carried out by the staff of the desk, and at the general level the value of the pre-assembly youth meeting before Budapest, and the observation that they should be more fully involved in the assembly itself this time, an alternative proposal was put forward. (118)

The Executive Committee affirmed: (119)

That it recognizes the value of the idea of holding a Youth Gathering prior to the Assembly and asks that the Assembly Committee, in coordination and consultation with the LWF Youth Desk, discuss its scope and function in relation to other possible pre-Assembly meetings, and also that it present a recommendation on all possible pre-Assembly meet-

ings to the next Executive Committee meeting, taking into account the cost factor.

The Executive Committee

VOTED: To receive the report of the CCC/DCC

#### 9.4 Report of the Commission on Studies

(120)

Ms. Christina Berglund, Chairperson of the Commission on Studies, introduced the report of the Commission (EXHIBIT 9.4). She expressed the joy of the Commission and Department of Studies that its new Director, Dr. Erika Reichle, had started her work on April 1, 1987, just a day before the beginning of the Commission meeting.

She then reported with appreciation that Dr. Eugene Brand had carried a double responsibility for his own work and as Acting Director during the 8 months period when the director's post was vacant.

(121)

The Commission was grateful for the opportunity of having its annual meeting in the context of a Joint Commission meeting. It was a fruitful experience.

(122)

She then emphasized the Commission's interest in 3 areas:  
(1) The theological clarification of the concept of *communio* with its ecclesiological, ecumenical and socioethical implications and consequences.

(123)

(2) The concerns about equality and equipping: (a) to fulfill the task given by the Budapest Assembly regarding the partnership of women and men and the strategies from Nairobi and (b) the equipping of the whole people of God (Scholarships Program and Christian Education). She emphasized that the CS had in no way questioned the position of a Secretary for Christian Education but had voted (23/87) to fill the position as soon as possible.

(124)

(3) Peace: The Commission felt that it is important that peace be a constant concern, and it was disappointed that the original plan for a seminar on peace or a plenary discussion in the joint sessions did not materialize. Ms. Berglund then mentioned with regret that the position of the Secretary for Social Systems, which will become vacant in October 1987, cannot be filled due to lack of funds. On behalf of the Commission she expressed thanks to Bela Harmati and to Eva von Hertzberg for their significant services which will be remembered for a long time by the Commission.

(125)

With regard to a new structure the Commission on Studies felt that it is important to discuss a wide range of models. While endorsing the efforts to provide a greater degree of coordination, cooperation and integration in the LWF, the CS had urged in 1986 that "the basic role of theology and study be kept visible and prominent. This is an essential task of the Federation and a vital element in the continued loyalty and support of the member churches." This role was affirmed again this year when the Commission declared that "theology must

(126)

remain the basis or the LWF."

Concerning the questions addressed to Commissions by the officers the CS concluded that further reductions in Studies are not possible. The staff has been reduced to the minimal level needed to carry out the mandated programs. The Department of Studies provides a necessary center that focuses studies internationally and regionally for the member churches. It provides a focal point for church relationships. The CS stressed that it is imperative that theological work be done in a specific, separate department rather than in the context of a multitude of individual projects.

(127)

Ms. Berglund asked Dr. Brand to present the report he had prepared for presentation to the Commission on Studies. Referring to EXHIBIT 9.4.1, Dr. Brand then read paragraphs 12-16 dealing with the common denominator and main lines of the work of the Department.

(128)

After officially welcoming Dr. Reichle, Bishop Hanselmann asked her to lead the Executive Committee through the report of the Commission on Studies.

(129)

Dr. Reichle called attention to EXHIBIT 9.4 and emphasized the following points:

(130)

- the fine cooperation in the staff Coordinating Group on Theological Education (cf. para. 2);
- first steps toward the study project on "communio" taken by the staff of the DS during their weekly meeting (cf. paras 3 and 14);
- the joint efforts of Dr. Goetz Planer-Friedrich and Dr. Paul Wee in developing a theology and a strategy for an ecumenical approach on "Just Peace" (cf. paras. 6, 7 and 26).
- Although the China Study (located in the Office of the Director without an expert on spot) will not be continued, there is a growing interest, especially of the Secretary for Church and People of Other Faiths and Ideologies, in the question of life and doctrine (preaching and teaching) of the Church in China as an extraordinary example of a growing indigenous post-denominational church (cf. para. 10).
- In connection with the discussion of the report of the Ecumenical Institute in Strasbourg the vision of a Theological Research Center in the Southern hemisphere was discussed and a recommendation formulated on which the Executive Committee will have to vote (cf. para. 17). It was reported that this recommendation was brought to the All Africa Lutheran Churches Consultation in Antsirabe for a first check-up. The recommendation was discussed and supported and the consultation asked the LWF to commission a feasibility study.
- The Office for Education and Personnel Development is much geared to the needs of smaller churches and involved in de-

(131)

(132)

(133)

(134)

(135)

veloping projects contextually with their potential users. This asks for high contribution of staff-time. It is especially pitiful that the desk for Christian Education has been vacant since the end of 1986 (cf. paras. 18, 19).

- The decision of the CS to set aside 40% of the scholarship funds available for each continent for women has been reported also to the above mentioned AALCC which asked all governing bodies of the Lutheran churches in Africa to make the decision known to women on all levels of the church, to encourage women to ask for scholarships and to endorse women's applications (cf. para. 21). (136)

- Eva von Hertzberg's successful cooperation in women's leadership training in many member churches was highly appreciated. The fact that she probably would not be able to introduce her successor to the work will lead to some irritation and frustration (cf. para. 23). Special attention will be given to the desk for Women in Church and Society during the discussion of the Report of the Agenda Committee on Women's Participation in the LWF and in the Member churches. (137)

- The fact that the reappointment of the Secretary for the Church and People of other Faiths and Ideologies was endorsed by his church, means that the office will be able to implement its important programs as planned. (138)

- The Office for the Church and Social Issues is so deeply involved in the question of "Just Peace" and in the JPIC preparatory process that it is impossible for the Secretary to take over additional programs. Other possibilities will, therefore, have to be found to conclude the programs of the Office for the Church and Social Systems. In cooperation with member churches special efforts will be made to continue the program "Christian Ethics and the Problem of Land". (139)

In the discussion appreciation was expressed for the work done by the CS/DS. (140)

A general question was raised concerning the relationship between the Executive Committee and the Commissions. What is the Executive Committee expected to do with the reports of the Commissions? It was suggested that in addition to the presentation of some background material a few priorities should be highlighted for discussion. The main task of the Executive Committee in relation to the Commissions is to indicate whether the Commissions are going in the right direction in fulfilling their given mandate. (141)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the report.

Bishop Hanselmann expressed his thanks to Dr. Eugene Brand for his leadership in the interim period. (142)

9.4.4.1 Theological Research Institute in the Southern Hemisphere (143)

Ms. Berglund introduced EXHIBIT 9.4.4.1 and asked the Executive Committee whether such an Institute would fall within the mandate of CS. She then asked Dr. Reichle to lead through the recommendation. Dr. Reichle explained that the proposal was made in the Commission on Studies by the members from Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa.

The attention of the Executive Committee was drawn to the terminology in the recommendation which is normally not used by the LWF. It was strongly felt that such an Institute should not have its own building but should be related to already existing regional programs. It was pointed out that the financial involvement in such a project has to be very carefully checked. The general feeling of the Executive Committee was that it could not act on the recommendation before there is an extensive clarification of the proposal and full endorsement by the member churches in the region or regions concerned. It therefore referred the recommendation back to the Commission on Studies for further clarification. (144)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive EXHIBIT 9.4.4.1 as Information.

9.5 Commission on Communication

(145)

The Chairperson of the Commission on Communication, Ms Ruth Abraham, introduced her report by referring to the opportunity which the commissions had for an exchange on common concerns during the Joint Commission Meetings in April. Although the agenda was a heavy one, Ms Abraham felt that this meeting should be viewed as a positive experience. Two of the major items on the agenda were, of course, finance and restructuring which were of major concern to the Department of Communication. DOC in reviewing its own financial situation found it difficult to make further cuts without endangering existing projects. Ms Abraham presented in brief the actual financial situation of the Department of Communication. She also reported that in line with the Executive Committee's request in Munich in 1986, administrative budgets had been drawn up to cover a three year period. Ms Abraham mentioned the fact that a total of 51 projects had been approved, 34 of which were in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia and five of them were new communication projects. She said that the COC had tried to limit expenditure within the range of funding possibilities. Ms. Abraham was further of the opinion that the publication program of the DOC which serves all LWF departments should receive financial support from the various departments. Also the request for a more structured approach to publication services in the LWF as recommended in 1983 by the commission needs to be followed up in order to cut costs and allow for better coordination.

Another concern of great importance to the commission is the participation of women on executive level in the Department of Communication. The DOC presently has no women on its executive staff. Ms Abraham stressed the urgency of the matter and the need for change. She referred to the increased attention that was being given by COC to women's involvement and participation at every level within the projects themselves. She stated, however, that more work needed to be done regarding youth concerns and those of people with disabling conditions. In continuing Ms Abraham acknowledged with appreciation staff efforts and participation in carrying out the assignments of the department. (146)

The chairperson expressed her appreciation to Ms. S. Telewoda, Vice-President of the Executive Committee who had actively participated in the Consultation on Communication and Development sponsored by the DOC and LWF/CDS in Limuru, Kenya in October 1986 and to Vice-President A. Kunert who participated in and Dr. Rajaratnam who had spoken at the COC meeting in April. (147)

In concluding her report the chairperson thanked the National Committee in the GDR for its invitation to hold the 1988 Commission meeting in that country. (148)

The Director of the Department of Communication, the Rev. Norman Hjelm expressed his gratitude to Ms Ruth Abraham for her dedication and leadership as the Chairperson of the Commission on Communication. (149)

In presenting his report he reflected on the various aspects of communication and discussed in some detail communication as a function within the life of LWF (Information Bureau and Publications) and communication as a concern which is integral to every aspect of the life of the LWF and its member churches (mission, development, education). (150)

The report of the Director contained the following four issues: (151)

1. Toward an LWF "Policy for Information Services"
2. LWF publication programs
3. "The nature of a project"
4. Radio ministry in Africa

of which the first two received special attention during his presentation.

Three examples were cited to demonstrate the department's concern for communication in member churches: (152)

1. Madagascar:  
A communication center of the Malagasy Lutheran Church which serves to integrate various ministries within the church. The center was born out of the radio ministry but has now taken a multimedia approach in order to guarantee people's participation.

2. Latin America: (153)  
SEPEC (Lima, Peru) - focuses on helping the underprivileged to find ways of expressing themselves through the use of appropriate media within the setting of impoverished urban ghettos.

In Brazil the Landless Rural Workers Movement in close cooperation with the Department of Communication of the Evang. Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil offers opportunities for alternative participatory communication, radio programs, and training seminars. (154)

3. European Ecumenical Satellite Conference (155)  
A group of media specialists concerned for both the presence of the churches in satellite broadcasting as it develops, and the possible production of programs for such broadcasting. Sponsored by the World Association for Christian Communication - Europe Region, and the Departments of Communication of the World Council of Churches and the LWF, the group is exploring affiliation with the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

Additionally, in light of Dr. Roger Kahle leaving the services of the LWF on October 1, 1987 to take up an assignment as managing editor of the magazine of the newly constituted Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pastor Hjelm expressed sincere appreciation for his services as English Editor in the Information Bureau of the Department of Communication. (156)

President Hanselmann who had taken the chair for this session extended best wishes to Dr. Kahle and his family for their future. (157)

The ensuing discussion focused on the following concerns: (158)

- Appreciation was expressed for the Information Service for Lutheran Minority Churches (IDL). The need for it to relate more responsibly to individual minority Lutheran churches in Europe was stressed.
- The request was made for the departments to find new and more stimulating means to present their annual reports to the Executive Committee. One way proposed was to highlight only a few issues thus providing enough time for discussion within the Executive Committee. The departments were urged to take this request into account for next year's meeting. (159)

## 10. REPORTS FROM THE AGENDA COMMITTEES AND STAFF (160)

### 10.1 Report on the Review Conference on Southern Africa: CONFESSIONAL INTEGRITY

Ephorus Soritua Nababan who had taken the chair for this session, drew the committee's attention to EXHIBIT 10.1.A (attached) which constituted the report of the Agenda Com-

mittee on South Africa/Namibia - Confessional Integrity and which was based on the background material contained in the agenda under EXHIBIT 10.1 - 10.1.5. Reference was made to additional documents which were made available to the Executive Committee during the course of the meeting.

A number of questions were raised concerning the understanding of certain paragraphs. Concern was expressed that they did not properly reflect the present situation in South Africa and did not mention progress made in the dismantling of apartheid. Some changes were proposed in the discussion. However, in order not to water down the Budapest resolution urging the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination, the committee was against the amendments proposed by some members as they would weaken the content of the document.

(161)

The concern that the visit by an LWF delegation to the churches in Namibia and South Africa which is to be planned by the General Secretary, include a visit to their overseas partner churches was taken into consideration and the report was accordingly amended and is attached as EXHIBIT 10.1.A.

(162)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to adopt the recommendations on the South Africa/ Namibia - Confessional Integrity issue as follows:

(163)

Based on the information available at the present time, the Executive Committee does not ask the overseas partners of the suspended churches to terminate all financial and personnel support.

However, it is the deep concern of the LWF and its member churches that all agencies and churches work together towards the common goal of expressing visibly the unity of the church and purging all vestiges of apartheid from the life of church and society in South Africa and Namibia.

(164)

THEREFORE, we ask:

1. the suspended churches to inform their congregations on all levels of the church leaders' statements rejecting the apartheid system and that, in view of the escalation of oppression to the black population, the members be urged to take the necessary actions to abolish apartheid in the actual daily life of church and society.

(165)

2. 'white' churches openly to show solidarity with the members of the 'black' churches in their struggle for human rights;

(166)

3. both the 'black' and 'white' churches to continue the steps for unity already begun, and we urge furthermore that in support of the Final Statement of the Review Conference on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity

(167)

a) 'white' congregations call black pastors to

(168)

serve them;

- b) all congregational activities, including worship, holy communion and Sunday Schools, be conducted on an interracial basis; (169)
  - c) pastors of 'black' and 'white' churches meet together regularly for Bible and theological study; (170)
  - d) visits by members of the 'white' churches be made to congregations of the black townships and locations. (171)
4. the General Secretary to arrange a visit by an LWF delegation to the churches in Namibia and South Africa and to their overseas partner churches both to express our pastoral care and concern and to be more fully and directly informed of actions by the churches to implement the goals established by the LWF. (172)
5. the partners of the suspended churches to evaluate carefully whether their support in any way "helps the subsidized 'white' churches to continue to resist the change called for but rather assist them to be reconciled with their black brothers and sisters" (Budapest 10.3). We request that the Executive Committee be informed of the results of the evaluation. (173)
6. the Executive Committee, on the basis of the terms of the Budapest resolution, to evaluate the current situation at the 1988 meeting of the Executive Committee. Prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee reports should be in hand from the churches, both 'black' and 'white', in Namibia and South Africa, the partner churches in Europe (5, above) and the delegation. (174)

#### 10.2 Report on Namibia

The Agenda Committee on South Africa/Namibia had also concerned itself with the documentation of the Interconfessional Consultation on Namibia entitled: "The Church and the Namibian Quest for Independence - One in the Body of Christ, Together a Free People" (LWF Documentation No. 22/23 July 1987). (175)

After a brief discussion and minor editing the Executive Committee (176)

VOTED:

- 1. that the Executive Committee receive with gratitude the documentation of the Interconfessional Consultation on Namibia entitled:

"The Church and the Namibian Quest for Independence  
- One in the Body of Christ, Together a Free People"

as contained in the LWF Documentation No. 22/23 of  
July 1987;

2. that this documentation be conveyed to the LWF member churches with the request that it be studied ecumenically at the congregational level and within units and institutions of the churches; (177)
3. that staff continue the work of follow-up to the Interconfessional Consultation with special emphasis on the commitments which were made by leaders of state and church during the visitation. (178)
4. that the international partners of the Namibian churches, in particular the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Lutheran, be requested to explore ways in which they might continue to work together in support of efforts contributing to a cease-fire between conflicting forces as a preliminary step towards bringing an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia and a peaceful transition to Namibia's independence on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435. (179)

In connection with the tasks assigned to the Agenda Committees, the Executive Committee asked that in future attention be paid to the breadth of topics to ensure that the ad hoc committees have a realistic task to fulfill. (180)

#### 10.3 Report on the Palestinian-Israeli Issue (181)

Bishop Aarflot introduced the report of the Agenda Committee on the Palestinian-Israeli issue (see EXHIBIT 10.3.A attached) which had just been circulated, and also referred to the background document (EXHIBIT 10.3) prepared by Paul Wee and circulated previously. The EXHIBIT 10.3.A was read out and suggestions were made for rewording and reorganizing of the report. It was passed back to the agenda committee for revision. It was also mentioned that the background paper had also been revised by the Agenda Committee and that the final draft, along with attachments, would be made available with the minutes.

When the EXHIBIT 10.3.A was brought back to the Executive Committee it was agreed that paragraph (6), point B2, should be changed to read "power of love and justice which is inherent in the faith of Jews, Muslims and Christians alike". It was also agreed that the German translation of the text needed to be carefully checked. Before voting on the various recommendations, Executive Committee members expressed reservations regarding whether the actions proposed by the LWF were realistic in the light of limited resources. The General Secretary supported the paper saying that given the appointment of the Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights, the LWF was at last in a position to move forward on the Palestinian-Israeli issue (182)

which had long been on the LWF agenda, and which was an expressed concern of many member churches. He pointed out that this point in the process had been reached following consultations with the Middle East Council of Churches, other church and ecumenical organizations and the Christian World Communions. All of these welcomed a sensitive, flexible approach to the problems in the area. Staff were painfully aware of the budget limitations under which we have to implement this program.

There was also some discussion of paragraph (19), Recommendation 8d which encouraged programs enabling tourists and other visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the issue by travelling to occupied territories when they visit Israel. OKR Kaete Mahn felt that it needed to be mentioned that the churches in Germany already had some programs underway, and that the impression should not be given that this was a new initiative. Dr. Paul Wee responded that these programs had been in the mind of the committee as a model on which to build and that their value was recognized.

(183)

Dean Nissen raised the point that no reference had been made to his suggestion that Western Governments be urged to receive those Palestinian refugees from Lebanon requesting asylum. Many of them had been sent back and later imprisoned because of the receiving governments' inadequate understanding of the situation. He felt that Scandinavian countries in particular had been guilty of this misjudgement. Dr. Paul Wee reported that the committee had considered this a vital matter, but of more general application than the other points in the paper. Accordingly, it had been felt that to include such an appeal would be inappropriate. On the other hand, the Executive Committee agreed that the matter of these refugees should be carefully monitored along with the plight other refugees and asylum seekers, particularly by the staff of the Department of World Service and in coordination with ECC and other organizations. On this understanding, the Executive Committee voted on the issues raised as follows

(184)

A. The Staff Report on the Palestinian-Israeli Issue:

(185)

The LWF Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the staff report and refer it to the LWF member churches for study, reflection and possible action.

There were four abstentions

B. Conclusions and Recommendations:

(186)

The LWF Executive Committee

VOTED: (with two abstentions) to adopt the following statement:

1. The Lutheran World Federation and its member churches are part of the worldwide communion of believers with historical and theological roots in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This tradition has its primary geographical origin in the land of Palestine. The fact that this land has been manipulated by foreign powers and contested by Jews and Palestinians in the course of history, most bitterly during the last half century, is an occasion of great sorrow. In spite of the immense complexities which characterize this situation today, the Lutheran World Federation does not support the view that the vicious circle of hatred and violence which has caused so much needless suffering to Palestinian and Jewish people cannot be broken. (187)
2. It can be broken by the power of love and justice which is inherent in the faith of Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. As part of the Christian community, the Lutheran World Federation, together with its Palestinian-Arab member church, witnesses to the reconciling power of love and justice which is incarnated in Jesus the Christ. (188)
3. In seeking to give concrete expression to healing and reconciliation amid the ambiguous and volatile reality of the present historical moment, the Lutheran World Federation affirms a fundamental commitment to uphold the essential dignity and rights of both the Palestinian and the Jewish peoples. It does so in the awareness of its own past failings, but also in the knowledge that the God of history is a God of gracious forgiveness who is able to turn even the most sinful creature into an instrument of healing, justice and peace. (189)
4. It is on this basis that the Lutheran World Federation seeks to use the resources entrusted to it in joining with those people of good will who seek to contribute to the emergence of secure structural relationships between Jewish and Palestinian peoples on the historic territory of Palestine. (190)
5. The Lutheran World Federation believes that Palestinian as well as Jewish people should have a legitimate right to live on the land of Palestine with safe and secure borders and with binding guarantees for full and equal political, economic and social life. (191)
6. It is upon this assumption, namely that both Jews and Palestinians have a legitimate claim to this land on which they can raise their children and bring forth the fruits of their labors without fear, that negotiations on the future of Palestine must rest. (192)
7. During recent years the Lutheran World Federation has sought to express these convictions through activities designed to strengthen ties with both the Pales- (193)

tinian and Jewish communities. The following recommendations for additional action are made in the earnest hope that both communities will welcome even modest contributions to better understanding, justice and peace.

The LWF Executive Committee then

(194)

VOTED: (with two abstentions) to adopt the following actions:

- a. that the LWF and its member churches, in response to the request of its member church on the Occupied West Bank, undertake those activities which contribute to a lessening of tensions and an increase in respect for the rights and dignity of all people in the area, employing the most appropriate channels for this purpose;
- b. that the LWF Executive Committee arrange for the visit of a delegation to Israel, the Occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the City of Jerusalem for the following purposes:
  - 1) to hold discussions with Palestinian and Israeli leaders (196)
  - 2) to analyze further the human rights conditions (197)
  - 3) to recommend actions which might contribute to a just peace in the area; (198)
- c. that the LWF Executive Committee support the calling of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian question on condition that the Palestinians be represented by individuals and groups of their own choosing; (199)
- d. that the LWF and its member churches consider the possibility of establishing programs in which persons from the international community (youth, congregation members, tourists, leaders in politics, economics and religion) can visit Israel and the Occupied Territories for the purpose of gaining understanding and assisting efforts toward reconciliation and peace; (200)
- e. that the LWF and its member churches request governments in Europe to recognize the right of persons from the Occupied Territories holding travel documents issued by the Israeli authorities to receive visas and to travel on equal terms with persons of other nationalities; (201)
- f. that the LWF Executive Committee encourage its member churches to continue to support the work of the Middle East Council of Churches as it seeks to strengthen the unity of the churches of the Middle East and their common witness to understanding, justice and peace. (202)

#### 10.4 Ethiopia

(203)

Ms. Christina Rogestam, chairperson of the Agenda Committee, introduced the report of the Agenda Committee on Ethiopia (EXHIBIT 10.4.1 attached). She mentioned that the Agenda Committee on Ethiopia received and reviewed the report of the Deputation of LWF Representatives which visited the member churches in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Evangelical Church of Eritrea, in September 1986. The Committee was briefed on the special situation in Ethiopia and had a thorough and deep discussion about LWF involvement. In the discussion Karlheinz Schmale reported on the critical discussion in Germany on the resettlement and villagization policy of the Ethiopian government. The General Secretary stated the official policy of LWF as formulated by the LWF Commission on World Service in 1985. The Federation will respond to the request of member churches for humanitarian aid to people in whatever circumstances or locations.

Upon the recommendation of the Agenda Committee the Executive Committee

(204)

VOTED

1) to receive the report on Deputation of LWF representatives with appreciation.

2) to accept the recommendation of the Agenda Committee, which was briefed on the special situation in Ethiopia, that the LWF involvement in Ethiopia be continued.

(205)

Ato Francis Stephanos expressed deepest appreciation for the invitation to attend the Executive Committee meeting in Viborg. He brought the greetings of the EECMY. The LWF concern and interest for the people in Ethiopia is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Ethiopian people he expressed gratitude to the LWF for the assistance at the time of the greatest disaster of Ethiopia, assistance which helped the people to survive the drought. With regard to the criticism on LWF involvement, he replied that people from outside make statements which are against the interest of the Ethiopian people. The help of the EECMY and the LWF to the suffering people is humanitarian assistance. The EECMY will continue to help all people irrespective of creed, politics, and tribe. Ato Francis urged members of the Executive Committee to come to Ethiopia, to share the problems and the joys of the churches and to try to understand the situation there. The Church has the primary and urgent mandate to preach the Gospel so that many millions would find Jesus and receive him as savior.

(206)

He then extended a warm invitation to the Executive Committee to hold its 1988 meeting in Ethiopia. He presented a plaque to the LWF President showing a cross on a map in his country, a sign for Christian witness over one thousand years.

(207)

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Ato Francis for his greetings. He

(208)

said that the greetings included a strong witness and proclamation which we need. He expressed appreciation to him for stressing spirituality as central to his work. He then thanked him for the invitation to hold the next Executive Committee meeting in Ethiopia and asked him to convey the greetings of the LWF to the sisters and brothers in the EECMY.

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Ms. Rogestam and the Agenda Committee for their work.

#### 10.5 Progress Report on Structures

(209)

The General Secretary in presenting the Progress Report on Structures (EXHIBIT 10.5) and in reference to the document THE STRUCTURES OF THE FEDERATION - SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING (EXHIBIT 10.5.1) highlighted the process of the work since the meeting of the Executive Committee in Munich in 1986. The General Secretary underlined the fact that a consensus to review the structures of the Federation had been reached and that in order to achieve the best results much attention needed to be given to the nature of the Federation and as to how best to link mission and service, look critically at the financial dimension and work together in true partnership making use of the member churches' contribution.

The General Secretary referred to the proposal that the Executive Committee form as a subcommittee a Committee on Structure. This committee will have the responsibility, in accordance with constitutional procedures, to recommend a new organizational structure for the Lutheran World Federation.

(210)

The Executive Committee

(211)

VOTED: to accept the Terms of Reference for a Committee on Structure as follows:

I. The Committee is to seek a broad consensus concerning the most appropriate structures for reflecting the basic mission and purpose of the entire LWF. This consensus is to be built upon the present discussion and broadened to include wider circles within the LWF; particular attention is to be given to the expectations and reactions of LWF member churches and commissions.

A. Attention should be paid in this process to the present LWF structure, including its financial status, in order to ascertain basic strength and weaknesses.

(212)

B. The societal, global, and ecumenical contexts of LWF work should be addressed insofar as these effect choices about structures.

(213)

C. Based on this consensus, the Committee shall offer summary statements regarding LWF identity and purpose in support of any structural recommendations.

(214)

II. For this purpose the Executive Committee will appoint five of its members to comprise the Structure Committee also naming one of those persons as chairperson. The General Secretary will be an advisory member of the Committee and will arrange necessary secretarial support. (215)

III. A Staff Structure Advisory Group of not more than ten persons will be chosen by the General Secretary in consultation with the LWF Cabinet and the Staff Representative Council. Within the purview of the Committee's Terms of Reference this Group will: (216)

1. Provide support work as requested by the Committee. (217)

2. Provide a two-way channel of information and reaction between the Committee and the entire LWF staff. (218)

The Executive Committee also took note of the suggested timetable as put forward in EXHIBIT 10.5, Par. IV A-M. A correction was made under Par. F. First report to Executive Committee: August 1988, which should now read: June 1988. (219)

The General Secretary presented a proposal from the Officers (EXHIBIT 10.5.2) containing the names of members for the Structure Committee. (220)

The Executive Committee (221)

VOTED: to appoint to the Structure Committee the following persons:

CRUMLEY, James (chair)	USA
ROGESTAM, Christina	SWEDEN
KOLOWA, Sebastian	TANZANIA
HOERSCHELMANN, Sieghilde	FRG
BATONG, Thomas	PHILIPPINES

President Hanselmann who had taken the chair for this session, confirmed that the Executive Committee's concern for active involvement of the member churches in the restructuring process taking into account their expectations and reactions was to be assured. (222)

#### 10.6 Report on Women's Participation (223)

Ms. Eva von Hertzberg introduced the report of the Agenda Committee on Women's Participation in LWF and in the member churches (see EXHIBIT 10.6.A attached) and the recommendations from the Commission on Studies (EXHIBIT 9.4.4, p. 1). After a lengthy discussion in which the importance of the volunteer work for the church was stressed, the Executive

Committee asked the Agenda Committee to rephrase some paragraphs of the report.

At a later session the Executive Committee received the revised report, amended some recommendations and  
VOTED:

(224)

1. that a plan be developed which provides for at least 40% representation of women in the overall composition of the 8th Assembly, giving consideration to the following suggestions:
  - a. that clear guidelines be given to the churches for complying with the plan in the appointment of their delegates; (225)
  - b. that larger delegations be requested to provide more women representatives in order to achieve 40% overall; (226)
  - c. that National Committees and church leaders be encouraged to work with women's groups and leaders in identifying women candidates for appointment; (227)
  - d. that efforts should be made to avoid the expectation that the youth representation also provide the women's representation, so that women delegates are mostly young. (228)
2. that attention be given to this representation of women in the appointment of Assembly committees and chairpersons, such as the Preparatory Committee, Nominating Committee, and other planning and working committees including LWF staff and local church committees; (229)
3. that in the development of the business meetings and entire program and worship life of the Assembly the perspective of women be included and consideration be given to full involvement of women in planning, implementing and leading the Assembly. (230)
4. that inclusive language (nonsexist, nonpaternalistic) in all official Assembly documents and in presentations be observed; (231)
5. that in all major LWF consultations women should constitute at least 30% and that normally no LWF conferences should take place unless women are participating; (232)
6. that in order to support the recruitment of women for executive staff positions in Geneva administration, the General Secretary and the Department Directors be authorized to send letters of search for positions also to the church women's organizations for information, and that member churches be urged to submit names of women candidates; (233)
7. that an LWF interdepartmental staff committee on women be set up (example: the interdepartmental Youth (234)

Committee) to strengthen the cooperation between program units and departments;

8. that all member churches and the LWF actively support and participate in the "Ecumenical Decade of the Churches' Solidarity with Women" which has been called by the World Council of Churches and will start Easter 1988. (235)

The Executive Committee (236)

VOTED: to receive the report (EXHIBIT 10.6.A revised).

10.7 Report on the next Assembly (237)

The General Secretary introduced the report (EXHIBIT 10.7).

Dr. Kunert confirmed the invitation of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil to hold the next LWF Assembly in Brazil. He pointed out that the General Council has felt that the best place would be Curitiba. (238)

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Dr. Nostbakken extended a warm invitation to hold the next Assembly in Canada. He mentioned that this invitation should however not be understood as a competition to the invitation from Brazil. (239)

In the discussion it was emphasized that an Assembly is of great benefit for the host church. The representative of the Finnish National Committee made a plea to move the dates of the Assembly to 1992 or 1993 because of the WCC Assembly in 1991 and some other major conferences which are planned for 1990. It was stated that the Constitution would not permit 8 or 9 years in between Assemblies. (240)

With regard to the theme the General Secretary reported that a letter will be sent to member churches asking them to suggest 5 themes which have relevance in their situations. The task of the Assembly Committee and the staff will be to discover and recommend appropriate material which already exists in the churches. There will be, therefore, no need for the LWF to develop extensive material for the Assembly as in the past. (241)

The Executive Committee (242)

VOTED: to accept the invitation to hold the next Assembly in Curitiba, Brazil. The period January 20 to February 10, 1990 should be reserved for this event, exact dates within this period to be proposed by the Assembly Committee to the Officers' meeting in February 1988.

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Dr. Kunert for the invitation and asked him to convey the greetings of the LWF to his church. (243)

Bishop Hanselmann also thanked Dr. Nostbakken for the invitation.

#### 10.7.1 Assembly Committee

(244)

Upon the recommendation of the Officers, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to appoint the following persons to the Assembly Committee:

##### Members:

- The Rev. Käte Mahn, FRG (chair)
- The Rt. Rev. Werner Leich, GDR
- Dr. Augusto Kunert, Brazil
- The Rt. Rev. David Preus, USA
- Mr. Samuel J. Goolsarran, Guyana
- Ms. Aida Haddad, Jordan

##### Consultants:

- Ms. Christina Berglund, Sweden
- Dr. Dorothy Marple, USA
- Ms. Ruth Abraham, Ethiopia
- The Most Rev. Munshi Tudu

#### The Executive Committee

(245)

VOTED: to receive the report on the next Assembly (EXHIBIT 10.7).

#### 10.8 Report on Personnel Matters

(246)

The Associate General Secretary introduced his report on Personnel Matters, Exhibit 10.8, which had already been circulated, saying that it was a continuation of the report the General Secretary had given at the previous year's Executive Committee meeting in 1986, and also of Dr. Lema's report to the Officers in February this year. He drew attention to the comprehensive chart which had been prepared, and shared with the Officers, listing all decision-making bodies and staff in the area of personnel matters. He said that copies of the chart would be given to all Executive Committee members, as well as to Commission Chairpersons.

Appreciation was expressed for the progress that had been made so far in personnel matters. It was noted that the LWF was moving in the right direction, although much remained to be done. It had also been appreciated that all documents related to personnel (Policies, Constitution etc.) had been circulated to the Executive Committee members in September as promised at the Executive Committee meeting.

(247)

There was concern arising from the facts mentioned in the report regarding the balance between female and male staff, and also that there were proportionately very few members of staff from Eastern Europe. The General Secretary assured the Executive Committee members that both these issues were recognized as important and every effort was being made to

(248)

adjust the regional and sex balance. Regrettably, it would not be possible to alter the fact that most support staff were women, as this was a general feature of the employment scene in Switzerland.

It was felt that every effort should be made to reassure the staff regarding the restructuring process, keeping them fully informed and involved. The General Secretary also assured the meeting that the staff group attached to the newly constituted Structure Committee will be able to have full consultation with the Staff Representative Council on the process of restructuring. After discussion, the Executive Committee:

(249)

VOTED: to receive the report.

There was some disappointment expressed that no agenda committee had been formed to discuss the report on personnel matters and examine the development of the Personnel Office. Fuller reporting and more time for discussion had been expected on the basis of the minutes of the 1986 Executive Committee Meeting. For this reason it was suggested that an ad hoc agenda committee be formed to consider these matters and report back before the end of the meeting. It was made clear that it was not to be an ongoing committee. Moreover, while the committee might consider the relation between the Officers and Executive Committee in personnel matters, it would be for the Constitution Committee and the Standing Structure Committee to look into the matter.

(250)

The Officers and General Secretary were requested to make proposal for the composition of the ad hoc agenda committee on personnel matters. They presented a list of eight names. The Executive Committee

(251)

VOTED: To accept the following proposal for the Agenda Committee on Personnel, namely:

Karsten Nissen (Chair)  
Christina Rogestam  
Wolfgang Rehner  
Maria Gomez  
Samuel Goolisarran  
Aida Haddad  
· Amtse Songsare  
Thomas Batong

Ruth Abraham as Consultant

Anza Lema and  
Gene Ries as staff persons

After further discussion, the Executive Committee also

(252)

VOTED: That all four Commission Chairpersons should attend the Agenda Committee on Personnel as consultants.

The committee met and produced a report which was presented to the meeting by Christina Rogestam in the absence of the Chairperson. The discussion of the report (EXHIBIT 10.8.1 attached) led to a suggestion being made that the role of Commissions, in relation to that of the Executive Committee and the General Secretary, in nominating and appointing staff should be reviewed. The Executive Committee agreed to refer the question to the Standing Committee on Structure.

(253)

The report suggested that when the General Secretary felt unable to concur with a staff nomination from a department director or a commission, he should nevertheless report the wish of the department and/or commission to the Officers or Executive Committee as the case may be. He agreed to do so.

(254)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the report

#### 11. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS (EXHIBIT 11)

(255)

Bishop Andreas Aarflot, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations, introduced the committee's report. Dr. Eugene Brand, Secretary for Interconfessional Dialogue and Ecclesiological Research, in highlighting the report drew the attention to the following points:

##### 1. Bilateral Dialogues

(256)

##### 1.1. Anglican-Lutheran (A-L)

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

##### 1.2. Baptist-Lutheran (B-L)

(257)

After a discussion regarding the procedure of appointing one additional member and upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to authorize the General Secretary in consultation with the Lutheran chair of the dialogue group to make an additional appointment to the B-L Joint Commission.

##### 1.3. Lutheran-Orthodox (L-O)

(258)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to authorize the President and General Secretary to send the Russian Orthodox Church a message of congratulation prior to the June 1988 celebration.

#### 1.4. Lutheran-Reformed (L-R)

(259)

Attention was drawn to the importance of the presence of representatives from Africa and Asia in the L-R Commission because the situation regarding Lutheran-Reformed relationships varies greatly according to the various regions. The Executive Committee was informed of Dr. Nababan's official request to withdraw from membership because of his new duties as Ephorus of his Church.

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to honor the request of the Rev. Dr. S.A.E. Nababan (Ephorus of HKBP) to withdraw and to accept and implement the suggestion of the HKBP that he be replaced on the L-R Joint Commission by the Rev. Dr. A.A. Sitompul.

#### 1.5 Lutheran-Roman Catholic (L-RC)

(260)

Attention was drawn to the last sentence of paragraph 16 and it was suggested to change it as follows: "The Rev. John Radano commented upon several points related to the concept of magisterium as Roman Catholics understand it."

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee regarding the publication "Lehrverurteilungen - kirchentrennend?", the Executive Committee

(261)

VOTED: To approve the process as outlined in EXHIBIT 11.1, para. 26 and to authorize the LWF staff to proceed along such lines, presenting annual progress reports to the Executive Committee.

#### 1.6 Lutheran-Methodist (L-M)

(262)

In the discussion it was agreed to change the last word in paragraph 18 to "Federal Republic of Germany". It was pointed out that the Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic which also includes Reformed churches, is also in discussion with the Methodist Church regarding pulpit and altar fellowship, and it is hoped that an agreement can soon be reached. The question was raised whether the documentation leading to the pulpit and altar fellowship in the Federal Republic of Germany could be made available to other churches who have close relationship with Methodists. OKR Kaete Mahn answered that her office would send a copy of the document to all members of the Executive Committee.

#### 2. World Council of Churches

(263)

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION.

#### 3. Other Items

(264)

### 3.1 Communio

It was pointed out that the question regarding "communio" will be pursued by the Structure Committee, and it was noted that the member churches are to be involved in this process.

### 3.2 Report from Constitution Committee

(265)

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION.

### 3.3 Consultation on Interconfessional Dialogues

(266)

The Executive Committee's attention was drawn to the importance of such a consultation not only for the preparation of the next Assembly but also to share interim results of the individual dialogues.

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to add its endorsement to the current proposal for a Consultation on Interconfessional Dialogues and to encourage the LWF staff to proceed with its planning and implementation in 1988 or 1989, contingent on the assurance of the US\$ 30,000 requested by the Department of Studies in the 1988 Statement of Needs.

### 3.4 Letter to Member Churches

(267)

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION.

### 3.5. Forum for Conversations with NonMember Lutheran Churches

(268)

In the discussion some doubts were expressed as to the desirability of such a forum, and whether it would produce concrete results.

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: 1. to authorize the General Secretary to proceed with the implementation of the proposal outlined in EXHIBIT 11.1.10; (3 abstentions)

(269)

2. to lodge staff responsibility and budget for the Forum in the office of the Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs. (2 abstentions)

(270)

After a lengthy discussion whether the Officers are also acting as Nominations Committee, it was moved to postpone the discussion of paragraph 25 (cf. also EXHIBIT 11.1.10 A) until the procedure regarding nominations has been cleared.

(271)

### 3.6 Scope of Dialogue

(272)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to instruct the staff to prepare a background paper on broadening the scope of interconfessional dialogues for discussion at the 1988 meeting of the Standing Committee/Executive Committee.

### 3.7 Process of Reception

(273)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to instruct the staff to prepare an issue paper on reception for discussion at the 1988 meeting of the Standing Committee/Executive Committee taking into account the different constitutions of the churches.

## 4. Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg

(274)

Professor Harding Meyer, Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research presented the report of the Institute (EXHIBIT 11.2). He drew special attention to the ecumenical seminars which are of interest to many pastors and lay persons.

The Study Projects are the most important work of the Institute. They deal with ecumenical-theological and ecumenical-socioethical issues. The result of the projects is published in rather extensive books. The publications of the Institute have mostly been self-supporting. The urgency of developing an integral policy for LWF publications was stressed and the importance of the relationship between the Institute's publishing program and that of the LWF was mentioned.

(275)

The General Secretary underscored the importance of the work of the Institute in the life of the Federation and of the member churches. He noted that the cooperation between the Department of Studies and the Strasbourg Institute is very gratifying.

(276)

In the discussion appreciation was expressed for the invitations extended to members of Eastern European churches to attend ecumenical seminars, and it was pointed out that such participation leads to a great enrichment for the Eastern European member churches. A representative from an Eastern European church mentioned that it would be very important for his church that the LWF pursue the possibility of a dialogue with Old Catholics on world level and that Christian-Marxist dialogue would also be important for his church. While the financial situation of the Institute remains sound, it is unfortunate that funds do not permit publication of the results of all seminars.

(277)

Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

(278)

VOTED: 1. to receive the report of the Institute for Ecumenical

Research with gratitude;

2. to acknowledge with thanks the contributions of departing Research Professor Per Lonning to the Institute and the LWF; (279)

3. to commend the Strasbourg staff for its important work. (280)

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Professor Meyer and his staff for their work. Dr. von Ehrenheim expressed deep gratitude to the Bavarian Church for its strong financial support for the Strasbourg Institute. (281)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: receive the report of the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Bishop Aarflot for his work as chairperson of the Standing Committee. He also expressed appreciation to Dr. Brand that he did not neglect the Institute in spite of his very busy schedule. (282)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to receive the report of Interconfessional Dialogue and Ecclesiological Research. (EXHIBIT 11.1)

At a later session the Executive Committee again considered the question of the Inter-Lutheran Committee (EXHIBIT 11.1.10.A). (283)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to appoint to the Inter-Lutheran Committee the following members:

- Rev. Dr. Roger Nostbakken, Canada (LWF chair)
- Bishop Dr. Gerhard Mueller, FRG
- Prof. Samuel Udofia, Nigeria
- Dr. Soritua Nababan, Indonesia
- President Dr. Gottfried Brakemeier
- Dr. Phyllis Anderson, USA

## 12. REPORTS OF MEMBER CHURCHES (EXHIBITS 12ff) (284)

Dr. Hjelm introduced the subject and informed the Executive Committee that several representatives from member churches had been asked to give short presentations.

Very Rev. Karsten Nissen gave a summary of the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark. He highlighted four critical points: (1) In the present system priorities are not given to support congregational workers, but to the restoration of church buildings. It is hoped that this will change. (2) Approximately 84% of all Danish children are baptized. Religious education is, however, no longer part of the school system; it is now (285)

left to Sunday schools and voluntary agencies. A more structured religious education of children has to be found. (3) The church should take up diaconal and social activities. (4) Congregational Councils should get more freedom.

Bishop Getake Gam expressed appreciation for the kind invitation to Lund and to Viborg. He then brought the greetings from Christians in his country and in particular from the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. He referred to the importance of the theological education program - which was started by the LWF - for his Church. Although the Evangelical Lutheran Church became autonomous in 1956, missionaries are still needed. He then presented a book on Papua New Guinea to the LWF President. Bishop Hanselmann thanked him for the gift and asked him to convey the greetings of the Executive Committee to his Church.

(286)

Pastor Jean Fenomanana thanked the LWF for the opportunity to share with the Executive Committee information about some of the work of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. He extended greetings from his Church and in particular from its president, Rev. Ranaivojaona Razafimanantsoa. He then highlighted four areas of particular concern: (1) Mission in the big cities and industrial areas. Tananarive is one of the 7 pilot cities in Africa for urban mission. (2) Relief Program in the South: The Southern part of Madagascar had been struck by a prolonged drought. The Church has raised money from their congregations and from overseas partners and used it for the purchase of food, seeds and medicine. This did not only help prevent people from starving, but also resulted in the conversion of many people who became members of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. (3) The training of lay workers is seen as a step towards a holistic and integrated way of presenting the gospel to the world. (4) Communication: The radio station in Antsirabe has been a blessing for the Church. It has become a multimedia center and is called the "Lutheran Center for Communication".

(287)

Bishop Janusz Narzynski brought greetings from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the People's Republic of Poland. The services of the LWF are highly appreciated by his Church. As a diaspora church in Poland the membership in the LWF is regarded as a gift of God and is an irreplaceable and essential component to the Christian existence in Poland. In today's situation which asks for a spiritual and theological maturity, the Lutheran church in Poland sees the service of the LWF as a challenge to continuous reflection about the foundation of our communion, rooted in the Trinity. One of the priorities of the Church is the missionary and evangelistic task as well as caring for our historical heritage. Bishop Narzynski expressed appreciation for the work of the LWF Secretary for Europe, Dr. Sam E. Dahlgren. Dr. Dahlgren and his predecessor, Dr. Paul Hansen, were bridge builders between the Lutheran church in Poland and the worldwide family of the LWF. Bishop Narzynski urgently pleaded that the vacant position of the Europe desk be filled as soon as possible. He then asked for God's blessing on the LWF and concluded with the words from Matthew 25:40: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

(288)

Bishop Paavo Kortekangas expressed his gratitude for the unique

(289)

opportunity to visit churches in Kazakhstan, USSR. He was very much impressed by the intensity of listening and praying of the members of these congregations. He pointed out that none of the ordained pastors has formal theological training, and he expressed a need for better connections between these congregations and for theological training and education.

Bishop Bertil Werkström brought greetings from the Church of Sweden. He mentioned that two new books had been recently published: the new book of worship and a new hymnbook. He then presented a copy of the new hymnbook to each member of the Executive Committee - as a gift from the Church of Sweden.

(290)

Ms. Sieghilde Hoerschelmann thanked the LWF for the opportunity to visit Papua New Guinea together with Ms. Susannah Telewoda. One of the highlights of their visit was a five hour worship service. The fact that two women, both lay people, represented a world church organization and spoke on its behalf was a new experience for Christians in Papua New Guinea. It was important for them to see that women have equal responsibilities with men in some churches. Ms. Hoerschelmann emphasized that the LWF should help elaborate a program for middle level training. It would be an advantage if people from member churches in Africa could participate in such a program. She concluded in thanking Bishop Gam for all the hospitality given to her and Ms. Telewoda during their visit in Papua New Guinea.

(291)

Dr. Paul Hansen reported about his four trips to Russia (1976-1980). He pointed out that from the mid-thirties to 1980 Lutheran Christians have lived in Russia without parishes and without Bibles, but they had shared many Bible passages by oral tradition. He felt it would be good if a possibility could be found for representatives from the various parishes to meet once a year.

(292)

### 13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(293)

The Executive Committee considered and discussed the report of the Standing Finance Committee (EXHIBIT 13 attached).

The Executive Committee

VOTED: To accept the report and its recommendations as quoted in EXHIBIT 13 with the following changes:

- A. Under item 4.1 (EXHIBIT 13), Approval of the Draft Statement of Needs, with reference to Recommendation number 4, the Executive Committee

(294)

VOTED

that emergency overdrawings of the approved 1988 budget in the General Secretariat between Executive Committee meetings needs the prior approval of the Officers.

- B. Under item 7 (EXHIBIT 13), VIIIth Assembly Fund, with reference to the second recommendation, the Executive Committee

(295)

VOTED

that the Executive Committee authorizes the Comptroller to request the member churches whose total contribution over 5 years is less than \$ 600, to pay their full share already in 1987.

14. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS (EXHIBIT 14 attached)

(296)

The Associate General Secretary presented EXHIBIT 14, the report of the Officers pointing out certain items for special attention.

In relation to item 5.3, the chart indicating responsibilities for personnel matters within the LWF, a question was raised as to the relation between the two job titles of Dr. Anza Lema: Associate General Secretary and Director of Personnel. It was explained that in being named Director of Personnel, an additional burden had been placed on the Associate General Secretary. These responsibilities had previously been the Comptroller's, who had been given additional tasks in the area of finance to deal with, such as the coordinating of funding. However, the Associate General Secretary did have an executive staff member and two other support staff to assist in the personnel side of his work. It would be appropriate to refer to him when reporting on his personnel work in terms of 'the Associate General Secretary in his capacity as Director of Personnel'. In letters of appointment etc. he should sign as Director of Personnel.

(297)

On the decision that the length of a newly appointed program staff person's first contract should be four years rather than three (item 5.2), there were several comments and questions. As the decision would undoubtedly have ramifications for the Personnel Policies and Regulations, the General Secretary assured the Executive Committee that this matter would be most carefully followed through and ensure that it was in keeping with Swiss legislation. Proposals for changes would come before the Officers in February 1988.

(298)

A question was raised as to whether this would alter the overall period of service of a program staff member, and whether there was a rule regarding how long such a period should be (i.e. how many contract renewals a staff member might expect to have during his service with LWF). The General Secretary said there was no fixed rule but that two terms (one of four years and one of three making seven in total) would be a general guideline for people serving away from their home country. He also pointed out that the four year contract would only apply to staff yet to be appointed, not to staff in post.

(299)

Regarding personnel matters, item 6ff, the Executive Committee referred to point 6.2.16, concerning Dr. Roger Kahle's new appointment as the Managing Editor of "The Lutheran", the journal of the newly constituted Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Executive Committee expressed much gratitude to Roger Kahle for his faithful service with LWF for the past eight years, and conveyed their best wishes for the future.

(300)

On item 8.1.3, the proposal on the Advisory Committee on Theolog-

(301)

ical Education in Africa (Special Project), doubt was voiced whether the member churches had been kept fully informed of the nomination and selection procedure for this committee, Rev. Risto Lehtonen explained the careful procedure that had been followed, requesting member churches for nominations, keeping them informed of discussions and actions on their nominations, arranging a session at the Joint Commission Meetings in April to consider the nominations, and another session at the All Africa Lutheran Conference in Madagascar to review the list of names. However, it was felt by some people that there had not been an opportunity to discuss the names fully at that last meeting. Some members of the Executive Committee from Africa expressed their acceptance of the procedure and all agreed that it was not the names that were being objected too,

Dr. Nababan said that he had raised the issue of appointment of regional committees by the Executive Committee at the Officers meeting and wished it to go on record that the question of who should appoint such committees should be referred to the Standing Committee on Structure. The General Secretary noted that the Church in Argentina had raised the question of regionalization to be discussed in connection with restructuring.

(302)

Another aspect of the proposal to be clarified were the terms of reference, including the length of time a committee member would be expected to serve. It was agreed that the provisional terms of reference (EXHIBIT 9.3.3) and the actual vote on the committee itself should be brought back to plenary at the same time. Although there was a proposal that this might be an interim committee, pending confirmation by the member churches, the General Secretary urged the Executive Committee to give the committee its full endorsement, in order to enable it to resume work which had been held up for the past year since the preceding committee had been wound up.

(303)

The Committee were also asked to vote on item 8.4, the Officers' proposal that the 1989 Executive Committee be held in Geneva. The Executive Committee

(304)

VOTED: To accept the Officers' proposal that, to ensure full staff participation and to keep costs to a minimum in the period prior to the 1990 Assembly, the 1989 Executive Committee meeting be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 30 July - 9 August 1989.

The Executive Committee then

(305)

VOTED: to accept the Report of the Officers (EXHIBIT 14)

At a later session, the Executive Committee was again asked to consider the question of the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa.

(306)

Upon the recommendation of the Officers, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to appoint the following members to the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa

- Ato Abebe Yohanes, Ethiopia
- Rev. Jean Fenomanana, Madagascar
- Ms. Eglah B. Gideon, Nigeria
- Dr. Ambrose Moyo, Zimbabwe
- Dr. Vivian Msomi, South Africa
- Dr. Hance Mwakabana, Tanzania
- Rev. Ngah Joseph, Cameroon

With regard to the provisional terms of reference for the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa (EXHIBIT 9.3.3),

(307)

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to approve the provisional terms of reference for the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa with the amendment of 1.7 which will read "the committee shall normally meet once a year and shall serve through 1990." (EXHIBIT 9.3.3)

#### 15. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(308)

The report of the Board of Trustees (appearing as item 7 of the Officers report (Exhibit 14) was introduced by the Comptroller. The Executive Committee

VOTED: to accept the report of the Board of Trustees

#### 16. PERSONNEL MATTERS

(309)

##### 16.1 Appointments and Renewal of Terms

##### 16.1.1 Appointment of Director of Department of Church Cooperation

Upon the nomination of the Commission on Church Cooperation and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to appoint Dr. Ishmael Noko as Director of the Department of Church Cooperation for a period of three years beginning 1 October 1987.

##### 16.1.2 The Comptroller, General Secretariat

(310)

Upon the recommendation of the General Secretary, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to extend the term of service of the Comptroller, Mr. Gerhard Messner, for another three years as of 1 May 1988.

16.1.3 Director of Department of Communication (311)

Upon the recommendation of the General Secretary, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to extend the terms of service of the Director of the Department of Communication, Rev. Norman Hjelm, for another three years as of 1 January 1988.

16.1.4 Associate Director of Studies (312)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Studies and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Executive Committee

VOTED: that Dr. Eugene Brand should continue to serve as Associate Director of Studies until the end of his term of service, in 1989.

Bishop Hanselmann congratulated Dr. Hjelm and Mr. Messner for their reappointment. (313)

He then informed the plenary of the appointment of Dr. Noko as Director of DCC as of 1 October 1987. He wished him patience, courage and God's blessing for his new work. (314)

Dr. Noko thanked the Executive Committee for his appointment. In his brief address he paraphrased a quotation from Moses in the Old Testament, who once said: "Lord you know my limitations, I cannot speak.....". Dr. Noko pointed out that he began to see his own limitations with respect to the challenges which lay ahead. He assured the Executive Committee of his commitment to the work of CCC. He summed up the mandate of CCC in the words of Ruth "Your God shall be my God, your people shall be my people." This he said was a statement on Mission and Evangelism central to the work of the commission. He then thanked his colleagues in Geneva, particularly naming Risto Lehtonen. (315)

17. REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (316)

Bishop Crumley, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Constitution, (EXHIBIT 17, Part II attached) presented the report.

1. Election Procedure for President of the Federation  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION
2. Process for Election of New Leadership in Case of Incapacity, Resignation or Death of the President  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION (317)
3. Election Procedure for General Secretary  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION (318)

4. Article III.1 of the LWF Constitution After considerable discussion, the text was referred to a working group (Crumley (chair), Aarflot, Mahn, Leich) for further revision. (319)

In a later session Bishop Crumley introduced the second revision. (320)

The Executive Committee

VOTED:

WHEREAS:

1. At its Seventh Assembly, the LWF amended its Constitution (III.1) by inserting the paragraph: "The member churches of the LWF understand themselves to be in pulpit and altar fellowship with each other"; and
2. The General Secretary has been asked for an interpretation of how this paragraph bears on an application for membership; and (321)
3. Pulpit and altar fellowship among Lutherans is fundamental to expressing their communion with each other, and such communion is basic to the more comprehensive communion of churches which we confess in the creeds and affirm in the Lutheran confessions. (322)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: (323)

that the Executive Committee interprets article III.1 of the Constitution as follows:

In accepting the Constitution of the LWF (IV.1) any church applying for membership understands itself to be in pulpit and altar fellowship with all member churches. (324)

5. Dual Membership in LWF (325)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to concur with the interpretation of the Constitution Committee that there is no constitutional obstacle to receiving into membership churches which also belong to another confessional body, and that the Standing Committee on Membership should consider each application on an individual basis taking into consideration all the factors involved.

6. Miscellaneous Items (326)

- a. Procedure for election of Executive Committee regarding its representation (men-women-youth)  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

b. Authority/jurisdiction of Assembly, Executive Committee,  
Officers, and Commissions (327)  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

c. Election of Vice-President

Bishop Crumley, in presenting the final recommendation of  
the Constitution Committee regarding the procedure for (328)  
election of the vice-president, reviewed the amendment of  
the Constitution to provide regional representation by in-  
creasing the number of vice-presidents from three to five.  
Then he moved the RECOMMENDATION

that the procedure for the election of the vice-president  
be the same as that used for electing the president.

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to approve that for the election of the vice-pres-  
ident the same procedure be used as that for elect-  
ing the president.

18. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP (329)

Bishop Dumeni presented the report (EXHIBIT 18 attached).

Bangladesh Lutheran Church (330)  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

The Salvadoran Lutheran Church (331)  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

The North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (332)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive  
Committee

VOTED: to ask the Associate General Secretary to write a letter  
to Bishop Tudu of the Northern Evangelical Church and to  
Dr. Rajaratnam, Executive Secretary of the United Evangel-  
ical Lutheran Churches in India, encouraging them to fos-  
ter reconciliation between the two churches.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (333)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive  
Committee

VOTED: to accept the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi into  
full membership with immediate effect.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (334)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American be accepted into full membership with effect of 1 January 1988.

Svenska Missionsfoerbundet (335)

It was pointed out that in para. 12 "church leader" should be replaced by "pastor".

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Church of Lippe (336)

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee

VOTED: to accept the Lutheran Section of the Church of Lippe as an associate member of the LWF.

Bishop Hanselmann expressed his joy that the Constitution which was enlarged in Budapest has provided the possibility for the Lutheran Section of this Church to become a member. OKR Mahn pointed out that the Church of Lippe will certainly hope to become a full member of the LWF in the coming years. (337)

Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (338)

In the discussion the question was raised whether an official letter of recommendation of the HKBP is necessary for membership. Dr. Nababan pointed out that he will try to work towards unification of this church with the HKBP from which it has split.

Dual Membership (339)  
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Executive Committee (340)

VOTED: to receive the whole report (EXHIBIT 18).

#### 19. REVIEW COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES (341)

Ephorus S. Nababan who was in the chair for this session invited Ms Christina Rogestam, the chairperson of the Committee on Program Priorities (CPP) to present the report (EXHIBIT 19).

Ms Rogestam pointed out that the Committee had had a chance to meet and review in detail steps taken by LWF commissions and staff toward the implementation of the program emphasis established by the Executive Committee in its 1985 document "The work (342)

of the LWF after the Seventh Assembly" during the Joint Commission meetings in Geneva in April. She drew the Executive Committee members' attention to the minutes of that meeting.

Ms Rogestam led the Executive Committee members through the report and pointed out that it contained no particular recommendation and that it therefore be received as information.

(343)

The General Secretary expressed his appreciation for the valuable contributions rendered by CPP ever since Budapest and pointed out that the recommendations of that committee had guided the work of the LWF over these years and will continue to do so up to the next Assembly. The question was raised as to the future function of CPP and the attention was drawn to the fact that several of the members of that committee had also been assigned to other committees. Ms Rogestam asked that this be thought through, but that it might be advisable for this committee to keep a lower profile next year and then in connection with the Executive Committee in 1989 evaluate the work done up to that time.

(344)

Ephorus S. Nababan expressed his gratitude to Ms Rogestam and all committee members for the outstanding work over the last years. The Executive Committee received the report as information.

(345)

## 20. MISCELLANEOUS

(346)

### 20.1 Letter from the Commission Chairpersons

The Associate General Secretary introduced this item referring to a letter addressed to the Executive Committee, which had been circulated to all participants, and signed by the four Chairpersons of Commissions. They drew attention to the fact that personnel matters (including executive members of their departments' staff) are dealt with in Executive Sessions of the Executive Committee from which they are excluded. The Executive Committee or the President in consultation with the Officers could make exceptions if requested in particular cases, but the four Chairpersons asked if the regulation could be changed so that they could attend as of right.

The Associate General Secretary pointed out that such a change would have far-reaching consequences and he gave as an example that the Commission Chairpersons would then have to attend every meeting of the Officers. He then reported the response of the Officers that the question be referred to the newly constituted Standing Committee on Structure. In the meanwhile the possibility was there to request an exception of the rule as mentioned in paragraph (14), EXHIBIT 4.2R. The Officers' decision was received by the Executive Committee as information.

(347)

### 20.2 Letter to the Member Churches on the Occasion of the 40th LWF Anniversary Celebrations in Lund

(348)

Rev. Norman Hjelm introduced EXHIBIT 20.2, a draft letter to

the LWF churches on the occasion of the 40th LWF Anniversary Celebration. After some discussion, it was agreed that the letter should go out from the President and the General Secretary, allowing time for them to revise it further. The Executive Committee

VOTED: to request the President and General Secretary to send a letter to the member churches on the occasions of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the LWF.

20.3 Visit of LWF Delegation to Lutheran Congregations in Kazakhstan, USSR (349)

The Executive Committee had extensive discussions of a draft resolution on the basis of the General Secretary's report regarding the visit of the LWF delegation to Kazakhstan, USSR. The main point of discussion was to what degree the resolution should be specific. One member of the Executive Committee expressed doubt as to the value of a resolution. Several members of the Executive Committee felt it would be the normal response of the Executive Committee to express its appreciation of the report, and its endorsement of the general direction outlined, and also to express gratitude for the support received before and during the visitation.

The Executive Committee

VOTED: to approve the resolution as amended.

1. The Executive Committee gratefully received the report of the delegation which visited Lutheran congregations in the Central Asian region of the USSR in June 1987. (350)
2. The Executive committee thanks the member churches in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, as well as the Russian Orthodox Church and the Baptist Union of the USSR for their spiritual and practical support of the visit. It likewise expresses its gratitude to the state authorities of the USSR and their administrative departments for making this visit possible, and for their constructive support. (351)
3. The Executive Committee gratefully welcomes the news of progress in regard to the possibility of training pastors for the spiritual benefit of the congregations. It notes with gratitude that Christian literature has become available with state authorization. It is confident that these steps will strengthen the hope of many Lutheran congregations that they can move towards deeper church fellowship among themselves. (352)
4. The Executive Committee is encouraged by the strong faith and the spiritual life of these con- (353)

gregations. It asks all LWF member churches to hold all our Christian brothers and sisters in the Central Asian region of the USSR in their prayers.

5. The Executive Committee looks forward to the continuation of friendly visits. (354)

Dr. Nababan thanked the Drafting Group for their work.

20.4 Review of work procedures adopted at the Executive Committee meeting this year (355)

The General Secretary wished to give the Executive Committee members an opportunity to review the method of using agenda committees, to give the Executive Committee members clear ownership of the proposals brought by staff. He also brought the proposal that there should be five such committees at Addis Ababa at next year's Executive Committee meeting, one to consider the work of each of the four commissions and one to consider the work of the General Secretariat.

Many favourable observations were made on the agenda committees, and regarding the proposal for next year's meeting. It gave the members a greater opportunity to become involved in the issues discussed. A proposal was made that a possible subject for such a committee would be the International Debt crisis, especially as the meeting would be held in Ethiopia and the Assembly in Brazil was approaching. It was agreed that the subject should indeed be dealt with at the 1988 meeting. (356)

20.5 Proposal on Nominations Committee (357)

Christina Rogestam brought a proposal that a separate committee should be convened at next year's Executive Committee meeting for the purpose of making the various nominations required from the Executive Committee meeting. The proposal was that the matter should be discussed very early on the agenda of the meeting, and that if it were agreed, the nominating committee should be appointed immediately, even though the Officers would have already formulated proposals. The committee, if appointed, would then be free to alter those proposals if they saw fit, but would not necessarily do so. The Executive Committee

VOTED: to add the proposal to establish a Nominations Committee to the agenda of the 1988 Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee also (358)

VOTED: that any proposal of names brought to the Executive Committee should only be voted on the following day, wherever possible, to allow Executive Commit-

tee members time to reflect on the proposal.

20.6 Word of Greeting to Superintendent Kalnins on his 75th birthday (359)

The draft of a letter of greetings was read. The Executive Committee

VOTED: to send a letter of greeting to Superintendent Kalnins.

20.7 Thanks of Conference of European Churches (360)

Jean Fischer, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, thanked the Executive Committee for being able to attend their meeting. He pointed out that several of the items are of great interest to CEC:

1. Concern for better communication and for stimulating the churches to take more seriously modern mass media. (361)
2. Evangelization: The Mission of the Church in secular Europe. (362)
3. Implementation of Helsinki Final Act. (363)
4. CEC will take a major responsibility in 1989 for the Conference on Peace with Justice which will hopefully be organized together with the European Council of Catholic Bishops. (364)
5. He then congratulated the Executive Committee for the action taken regarding the Women's participation in the LWF and in the member churches. (365)

Bishop Preus thanked Mr. Fischer for his presence here and asked him to convey the greetings of the LWF Executive Committee to CEC. (366)

20.8 Special Word of Thanks to Bishop Ting (367)

As Bishop Ting was about to leave, the President thanked him for his presence in Lund and Viborg and for his address in the Cathedral. The Executive Committee had been very much interested in his reports. He asked Bishop Ting to convey the greetings of the LWF to the sisters and brothers in China and concluded with the words: "May God bless you and give you strength to witness his name."

20.9 Thanks for gifts to LWF (368)

The Executive Committee learned with great pleasure that part of the expenses for the furniture in the new wing of the Ecumenical Centre came from Lutherhjaelpen in Sweden as

a gift to the LWF. Furthermore, the new furniture in the office of the General Secretary was a gift received from the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations.

For these precious gifts the Executive Committee expressed their profound thanks to Lutherhjælpen and the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations. (369)

They also expressed thanks to the Church of Sweden for presenting the Lutheran World Federation with copies of their new hymn book. (370)

## 21. RESOLUTION OF THANKS

At the close of their deliberations, the Executive Committee meeting at Asmildkloster Landbrugsskole, Viborg, Denmark in July 1987 passed the following resolution of thanks: (371)

The LWF Executive Committee hereby express gratitude to :

- to the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, the honourable Madame Mette Madsen for giving a dinner in honour of the LWF Executive Committee; (372)

- the Principal, his wife and his colleagues, members of the staff of this school, for their tireless efforts to make our stay here as comfortable as possible. We express our deep appreciation for the way they have attended to our many and varied demands and needs; (373)

- the staff at the cathedral for their work in connection with the opening service on July 8 and the public event Sunday, July 12; (374)

- the Church of Denmark for the reception; (375)

- the Danchurchaid: Rev. J. Thomsen, Mrs. B. Sölling and colleagues from their office for all the help they have given to us; (376)

- the LWF Danish National Committee staff and the chairman Rev. J. Langhoff for their assistance to us before and during the meeting; (377)

- the Town Council for the reception and for the assistance of the tourist office; (378)

- the guide Borge Knudsen and Litten Mikkelsen for their work in connection with the town tour; (379)

- Christian Christiansen for the preparation and assistance before and during the meeting and guidance at the town tour; (380)

- Ms. Birthe Ebdrup for her help during the meeting; (381)

- Ms. Christiansen, Ms. Frederiksen, Ms. Mors, Ms. Gjesing and Ms. Kühn for their assistance with afternoon programs for spouses; (382)

- the tireless catering staff of this school who with cheer and smile have worked so hard to feed us all so well; (383)
  - Bishop and Ms. Geil of Viborg for their kind hospitality and the warm welcome greeting the Bishop extended to the Executive committee at the opening Eucharist service; (384)
  - the Very Rev. Karsten Nissen and Ms. Nissen for their many kindnesses and hospitality. We are particularly grateful to Dean Nissen for the time and energy he has put into the local preparations of this meeting. We are grateful to him not only for what he has done to facilitate our preparations, but also for the enthusiasm with which he has tackled our demands and needs; (385)
  - the pastors from the church in Denmark who have led our morning devotions. We have greatly enjoyed their inspirational messages and music; (386)
  - Dr. Eugene Brand who in collaboration with Dean Karsten Nissen undertook to coordinate the worship services and devotions; (387)
  - all members of the Executive Committee who have been responsible for the evening devotions; (388)
  - Bishop K.H. Ting of the China Christian Council for his stimulating and inspiring public lecture on Sunday evening, 12th July, 1987 as well as for his greeting and presence at this meeting; (389)
  - Presiding Bishop of the newly formed Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Right Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom for his gracious greeting and presence at this meeting; (390)
  - the ecumenical guests who brought greetings to the Executive Committee meeting, and those who attended as Observers, Consultants, and Advisers, for their presence and helpful contributions; (391)
  - the interpreters and translators who in their own efficient and effective way have helped us to communicate; (392)
  - Mr. d'Alessandri for being responsible for the communication system; (393)
  - all those who have been responsible for arranging and maintaining our computer link with Geneva, greatly facilitating our work; (394)
  - the conference staff from Geneva and the host country who have worked long hours taking notes, typing and producing documents for this meeting. For their efficient and effective work we offer our thanks; (395)
  - the stewards for all their assistance in taking messages, distributing documents, helping to prepare rooms and many other chores; (396)
  - all others who have in one way or another facilitated the smooth running of the meeting (397)
- For all these and others let the Name of our Lord be praised. (398)

21.1 The Executive Committee recalled with great pleasure their participation in the 40th LWF Anniversary celebrations held in Lund, Sweden on 4-5 July 1987. They expressed their deep felt gratitude for the festivities organized in Lund for thanksgiving and praise to God for the life and witness of the Federation in the last 40 years. The Executive Committee put on record their sincere thanks to: (399)

- the City of Lund
- the Diocese of Lund
- the Dean of the Cathedral of Lund
- the Church of Sweden

for all the kindness and hospitality that they showed to all participants from the Executive Committee, LWF staff members and friends of the LWF. (400)

21.2 President Hanselmann called for a letter of greeting to Presidents Schiotz and Kibira, and also expressed thanks and good wishes to Bishop Rapoo, Kim Schuster and Ann Marava who were leaving the Executive Committee this year. (401)

He gave thanks to everyone for their hard work, Executive Committee members and Vice-Presidents, chairpersons and members of committees, thanks to drafting committees, consultants, advisers and staff and the General Secretary himself who made a major contribution. He also expressed his thanks to the representatives of the media for the way they worked. (402)

It had been a fruitful meeting, many difficult decisions were taken, and there were inevitable tensions as well as good co-operation. (403)

He asked for prayers for member churches, especially those in difficult circumstances and with special needs. (404)

The General Secretary also thanked all participants, and especially President for his leadership. He also welcomed the new Vice-President, and pointed out that with her election, and the confirmation of appointment of three new women program staff at this meeting, LWF was on its way to meeting one of its goals of more equal representation of women among the staff and decision-making bodies of the LWF. (405)

## 22. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS (406)

### 22.1 Executive Committee Meeting 1988

The General Secretary reported that invitations have been received from two member churches in Africa, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon. After careful study of comparative travel costs for these two possible venues the Officers had voted to recommend that the Executive Committee meeting for 1988 be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20 - 30 June 1988.

Upon the recommendation of the Officers the Executive Committee

(407)

VOTED: to gratefully accept the kind invitation of the EECMY to hold its next meeting in Addis Ababa June 20 to June 30, 1988.

Bishop Hanselmann thanked Ato Francis and Pastor Songsaré for their invitations.

In discussing the method of working of next year's Executive Committee meeting, it was pointed out that there would be other extra work as the Assembly and Structure committees would be meeting, and there might not be the technical back-up that had been available at recent meetings. The General Secretary proposed that an extra day would be needed to complete the agenda. This was agreed and the Executive Committee

(408)

VOTED: that an extra day should be added to those set aside for the 1988 Executive Committee Meeting.

#### 22.2 Executive Committee Meeting, 1989

(409)

30 July - 9 August 1989, Geneva, Switzerland

#### 23. CLOSING

(410)

The closing worship was led by Dr. Eugene Brand.

The President formally closed the proceedings at 12.50 hours on Wednesday, 15 July 1989.



EXHIBITS



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(revised 27 July 1987)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - TEILNEHMERLISTE

Executive Committee Members - Mitglieder des Exekutivkomitees

- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Andreas AARFLOT, Church of Norway, St. Halvard's plass 3, Oslo 1, Norway
- The Rev. Dr. Thomas P. BATONG, Lutheran Church in the Philippines, P.O. Box 507, Manila 2800, Philippines
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. James R. CRUMLEY, Jr., Lutheran Church in America, 231 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, USA
- The Rt. Rev. Kleopas DUMENI, Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church, Oniipa, Private Bag 2018, Ondangwa 9000, Namibia
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Horst GIENKE, Evangelical Church of Greifswald, Rudolf-Petershagen-Allee 3, 2200 Greifswald, GDR
- Ms. Maria GOMEZ, American Lutheran Church, 1322 Macclesby, Channelview, Texas 77530, USA
- Mr. Samuel J. GOOLSARRAN, Lutheran Church in Guyana, 2, Bel Air Promenade, Georgetown, Guyana
- Ms. Aida HADDAD, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan, Muristan Road, P.O. Box 14076, Jerusalem - Old City, Israel
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Johannes HANSELMANN, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Meiserstr. 13, 8000 Munich 2, FRG
- Ms. Sieghilde HOERSCHELMANN, Northelbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Friedensburg, 2257 Sönnebüll/Bredstedt, FRG
- The Rt. Rev. Hans VON KELER, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, Gänseheidestr. 2-4, P.O. Box 92, 7000 Stuttgart 1, FRG
- The Rt. Rev. Dieter KNALL, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, Severin Schreiber Gasse 3, 1180 Vienna, Austria
- The Rt. Rev. Sebastian KOLOWA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, P.O. Box 3033, Arusha, Tanzania
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paavo Yrjö KORTEKANGAS, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Pyyrikintie 9, 33200 Tampere 20, Finland

- The Rev. D. Augusto Ernesto KUNERT, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, Caixa Postal 2876, 90.000 Porto Alegre, Brazil
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## THE SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNION

Report of the General Secretary  
Dr. Gunnar Staalsett

1. Bishop Zoltan Kaldy, the Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Hungary and President of the Lutheran World Federation died in Budapest on May 18, 1987. The funeral service took place on May 29, a moving and impressive manifestation of the role he had played in his church, his nation and the ecumenical movement worldwide. Numerous churches and ecumenical partners around the world have shared with us their shock and grief in cables and letters. Memorial services have been held on all continents in which persons of many nationalities and from many Christian communions have participated.
2. The life and service of Zoltan Kaldy centered largely around his concern for the church's role in evangelization, diaconic witness and the quest for international peace. In the early years of his ministry, during World War II, he showed these concerns especially in relation to the Jews of Hungary who were then living under constant threat. Later, he expressed these commitments in the development of a 'Theology of Diaconia'. Throughout his ministry, not least as host bishop of the first Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation to be held in Eastern Europe, he sought new ways to bridge the gulf between East and West. In a patient dialogue with the Marxist state, he led his church and the state together toward an acceptance of the unique role of the church in the socialist society.
3. I experienced Bishop Kaldy's service at first hand, for seven years as a member with him of the Commission on Church Cooperation of the Lutheran World Federation, as an observer of his work on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and as a co-worker in the LWF. His counsel and support to me in my present position -- as President of the LWF to its General Secretary -- was always friendly, wise, and one of dialogue. His passion for seeing the world communion of Lutheran churches assume a role of shared leadership in the ecumenical movement and in the quest for a just world peace was inspiring.
4. The Lutheran World Federation will remember Zoltan Kaldy with deep respect. To Mrs. Kaldy and other members of the family we extend our sympathy and pledge our prayers. We pray that the Lutheran World Federation will deepen its commitment to the vision which Zoltan Kaldy had for the Federation.
5. It is our privilege and joy to meet in Denmark this year at the invitation of one of the founding members of the Lutheran World Federation, Den evangelisk-lutherske folkekirke i Danmark. The LWF has always enjoyed strong and creative support from the Church of Denmark, not least through the many staff members who have come from this country to Geneva.
6. It was the king of Denmark who in 1706 commissioned and paid the first

Lutheran missionaries to India, Plütschau and Ziegenbalg. Through missionary work in many countries, the Danish Lutheran tradition has added to the richness and variety of our common heritage. Its mark has been left in the Caribbean and in West Africa. Emigration from Denmark contributed greatly to the development of Lutheranism in the USA. Political and cultural relations with Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Norway and southern Sweden since the days of the Vikings, helped create the particular folk church character of these lands. The Cathedral of Lund, where we have just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the LWF, was a Danish cathedral even into the 17th century.

7. Thinking of Denmark, the names of Grundtvig and Kirkegaard come to mind. Grundtvig's unique integration of church, culture and history, reflected in his universally treasured hymns, and Kirkegaard's brave struggle of the soul for truth and authenticity without compromise are known to us all. They and other spiritual and intellectual giants have set their indelible mark on the furtherance of faith and piety and have made the Church of Denmark different from many other churches. We are looking forward to learning how this church responds in our time to the challenges of a secular, increasingly pluralistic and urban society. What is the Danish spirituality in our age?
8. The Church of Denmark is one of the few Lutheran churches in the world where the Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday in every parish. Participating in this public worship the Danes join the people of God in worship around the globe. Through the act of worship, baptismal grace is renewed. In the worshiping community people recognize each other on their spiritual journey.
9. As here in Denmark, worship is at the center of Christian life all over the world. A few weeks ago, I was preaching at the conference of African Lutheran leaders in Madagascar. Thousands of people came together in the Cathedral of Antsirabe, most of them young. The church was vibrating with prayer and songs of praise in a country where the Lutheran church is growing fast and spiritual renewal blows like a wind. Church and theology, worship and service, proclamation as well as development find contextual expression as a new generation of Christians interpret the Malagasy culture in relation to the Lutheran tradition as brought in from Norway and North America.
10. How different was the encounter with the German speaking Lutheran congregations in Central Asia in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union where - just a few weeks before - I was able to visit the cities of Karaganda, Tselinograd, and Alma Ata together with Bishop Paavo Kortekangas and Superintendent Harald Kalnins from Riga, who for 20 years has been the faithful shepherd of these scattered flocks. Having preserved their hymns and liturgy, their culture and language, through centuries of oppression, migration and struggle in a strange land which has now truly become their own, these people receive the same Gospel and the same sacraments - but under conditions so different from many other places where Lutheran Christians are deeply rooted. Nevertheless, they remain good citizens of the Soviet Union, their homeland.
11. When I think of the joyous celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the church in Papua New Guinea, right after our meeting in Munich last year, or the festive service as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was constituted, or the Eucharist in which we just participated in Lund, the richness and variety are overwhelming. In October last year Pope John Paul II invited representatives of the Christian

World Communions and of other world religions to Assisi to pray for peace, a truly spiritual event. Again, it was at worship that we renewed our commitment to justice and peace. It is when using the language of the Church, that of prayer and liturgy, that we make our particular contribution to the life of the nations.

12. All around the world the Church is a worshipping community. At any given time there are people who bring the world before God in prayer. There are people who sing the praise of God for his gifts in creation and for salvation in Jesus Christ. There is comfort and hope, agony and mourning. At the recent Kirchentag in Berlin, GDR and in Frankfurt, FRG, it was worship, Bible study and the eucharistic celebration which attracted most participants. During my 11 day visit to the member churches in the GDR I experienced a church which boldly expresses its biblical faith and spirituality within socialism. In many parts of the world, the liturgy of the church has preserved confession, given Christian education to new generations, and maintained a living faith through centuries of political oppression or dominance of other religions. Now, as always, people gather in common but often silent commitment to justice and freedom in the name of Christ. At this moment bread is being broken and shared by God's people somewhere. Prayer is the life-giving breathing of the world. I want to believe that it is prayer that keeps creation from falling apart, that worship is our first calling to which everything else must be related.

13. Last year in Munich, I began my report by laying some theological foundations for the concept of communion which we had applied to ourselves in Budapest. Then I went on to indicate some of the implications of communion for our ecumenical and diaconal involvement. I have pursued this theme given us by the Budapest Assembly in my visits with members churches and in public addresses. At the Joint Commissions meeting in April I again spoke of the "Communion We Seek". It has indeed been rewarding to note the affirmation of the direction given in the concept of communion, sometimes theologically guarded and carefully worded, other times with a wholehearted push forward. This year I have chosen to put the accent on the spirituality which communion implies, and the broad spectrum which that spirituality covers. This report thus, at your advice, confines itself, as last year, to developing one theological perspective and relating it to a few programme issues. Other aspects of the work of the Federation will be reported to you in other documents such as

- the report from the commissions,
- the report of the important event of the Joint Commission meeting in April,
- the activities reports of the General Secretariat and

special reports on issues which you have asked us to bring before you at this meeting, such as

- the Palestinian/Israeli report,
- the Confessional Integrity report on South Africa,
- a review of our work in Ethiopia and
- a status report on the place and role of women in the member churches and in our organization.

The important issues of finances, structure and the next Assembly will also come before you as separate agenda items.

As promised last year, I will give a separate report on the progress

made towards a forum for talks with Lutheran churches which are not members of the LWF.

Among the reports from member churches we will hear encouraging accounts of a new Lutheran church being born in Malawi as a result of indigenous African lay witness, indicating a new era in mission.

The theological perspective which I would like now to open up is that of a spirituality of communion.

14. Spirituality is not an esoteric word. It does not mean the practice of particular devotional disciplines, nor does it mean dealing with the world of spirits as that is reflected in the New Testament and still today in several parts of the world. I hold that spirituality describes the quality of life Christians are to live in the Holy Spirit. It is the normal and proper life of the Christian communion. Its origin and its nourishment are in our common life centered in Word and Sacrament. It integrates confession, reflection and praxis. Spirituality is the heart of communion and communion is the visible expression of shared spirituality. Doctrine becomes sterile abstraction if not expressed in everyday faith, that is, in a living spirituality. Diaconia is mere activism if not inspired by Bible study, prayer, and worship in the name of Christ. The church itself comes to resemble a purely human organization of power and self-interest if not constantly refreshed by the living waters of the Spirit. Our communion is our common life in faith, our structures an instrument of that same common life. We are one body as a gift of the Holy Spirit, not by our own choice or our own work. Only as we live our faith in prayer and service, with heart and hands, can we speak of a communion in the true sense.
15. Our spirituality is rooted in baptism. Through the study of Luther - perhaps the preeminent theologian of baptism since St. Paul - but also through our discussion of "Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry" and other ecumenical documents, we are learning all over again the importance and depth of Christian baptism. In a time when Lutheran churches, not least in this part of the world, struggle to maintain a proper understanding of baptism under the pressure of popular expectations and sociological change, it is crucial that we, as a communion, uphold the apostolic tradition as interpreted by the church universal. Baptism is the sacrament in which God claims persons as his own and grafts them onto Christ's body, thus setting them over against principalities and powers and including them in the church, the sign and proclaimer of God's will for the world.
16. Baptism is for something. It incorporates one into the ecclesial body of Christ. And the body of Christ is for something. It is apostolic, liturgical and diaconal. It is sent into the world to serve the world in self-giving love and sacrifice, as Christ served the world. Through baptism one becomes a member of the priesthood of all believers. Nourished by the Word and the holy Eucharist, the congregation is sent into the world.
17. In that period of his life before he had become embroiled in polemics on all fronts, Martin Luther wrote concerning the Eucharist:

The blessing of this sacrament is fellowship and love, by which we are strengthened against death and all evil. This fellowship is twofold: on the one hand we partake of Christ and all saints; on the other hand we permit all Christians to be partakers of us, in

whatever way they and we are able. Thus by means of this sacrament, all self-seeking love is rooted out and gives place to that which seeks the common good of all; and through the change wrought by love there is one bread, one drink, one body, one community. This is the true unity of Christian brothers and sisters. (LW, 35, p. 67).

18. Luther's "Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament of the Body of Christ" points to the vital connection between the gifts of God which we receive - in this case the real presence of Christ in, with and under bread and wine - and the gift of God we are to be so that the world might perceive in us the Body of Christ, the people of God. It is a concept which posits wholeness, the fully focused Christian life. It is a spirituality of which service is an integral part. We live our lives in Christ, not for our own sake but for the life of the world. Our sacrificial ministry is to permit others, Christians or not, to partake of us in a real sense - our time and resources, knowledge and faith. Today, as always, this may imply a martyria, a total giving of the self in witness, even to the point of death.
19. We do well to observe, precisely at the point of talking of diakonia and martyria, that it also encompasses leitourgia. Unless that connection is vital and clear, we are easily caught in the trap of regarding service as more important than worship or making the worship of God mere preparation for diaconal service. The chief task of the baptized community, called together and nourished by God's Word, is to serve God in praise and thanksgiving. Such doxological service is the mark of a community which lives even now by a faith elicited by God's promised future. Our worship is eschatological, anticipating a world to come. As a Christian communion we are called a priesthood, we are called to offer sacrifice by serving others. We misread our calling if we downgrade or relativize the leitourgia or regard it only as "being fed" and an instrument for something else. Christian spirituality subsists in an indissoluble bond between leitourgia, diakonia and martyria. Our consciousness of service and witness in the world will sharpen and enliven our worship; our worship will give depth and energy to our service and witness, and sound in it the note of compassion. God's purpose with us is "to make us praise the glory of his grace" (Eph 1,6) by everything we are, everything we have and everything we do in a life of wholeness.
20. Every time we celebrate the meal of thanksgiving, this integrating, healing spirituality finds expression. The eucharistic liturgy symbolizes in the most powerful way how all that was divided is united and held together in Christ. People from all walks of life, young and old, women and men, people from every culture gather before the altar. Together they make their confession. Their sin and rejection is traded for grace and acceptance. They sing the doxology as the voice of all creation. The Living Word comes to them as absolution, as instruction, as healing, as sending. In intercession they bring the concerns of all before God. As the gifts of the earth and the labor of their hands are brought to the altar, the groaning creation waits for its adoption, its redemption (Romans 8:23). Our dependence on what this earth, now threatened by pollution and exploitation, gives is again demonstrated for all who have eyes to see and ears to hear. The sharing of peace through Christ's reconciliation, means renewed commitment to the peace of the world. The breaking of bread is a sign of justice. As this bread is shared by all, so daily bread must be equally shared in the world. The community at the Lord's table is sent into the world, not just to tell but to live a eucharistic life. "As often as you do this"

- a life of self-giving love, of brokenness for the healing of the world, of thanksgiving in the face of death and destruction - "do it in remembrance of me", says Jesus.

21. The congregation of believers assembled for worship is the primary form of the Christian communion. In each place, the church is present in its fullness when the Gospel, in Word and Sacraments, is proclaimed and received. The congregation, in worship and service and in manifold ministries for mission, is the local expression of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. This has nothing to do with size or strength. It all depends on the Gospel received in obedience. A big church is in no sense more church than a small one, but every church constantly needs to rediscover the centrality of the Gospel.
22. There has been a variety of accents of spirituality in church history and they persist in present day church life. We have learned to appreciate insights gained through the centuries. We are only too slowly learning what the contextualization of spirituality means. We should expect the variety of liturgical forms, the many flavors of culture and the impact of inherited religious traditions to increase. What will keep the Lutheran communion together is not uniformity in outward organization and liturgical life, nor is it a common theological teaching emanating from the churches in the North. No, there is only one thing which will remain as the common and indispensable character of the Lutheran communion: the centrality of the Gospel of justification by grace received through faith by the living Word and the Sacraments.
23. In the bilateral dialogues, and now again in the important Strasbourg study on "fundamental consensus", we have time and again returned to the well-known "satis est" of Article 7 in the Confessio Augustana.

Et ad veram unitatem ecclesiae satis est consentire de doctrina evangelii et de administratione sacramentorum.

(For it is sufficient for the true unity of the church to be in agreement regarding the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments).

This statement continues

Nec necesse est ubique similes esse traditiones humanae seu ritus aut ceremonias ab hominibus institutas.

(It is not necessary for the true unity of the church that ceremonies instituted by men should be observed uniformly in all places).

This paragraph, which has been of such great importance in bringing the Lutheran churches together into one communion in spite of all differences, gains new significance as Lutheran churches around the world work to contextualize liturgy, structure and theology. There is the foundation, the liberating Gospel of Christ as found in the Scriptures, and there are the living streams of spirituality flowing from this Gospel. This is what unites us, this is the Lutheran communion open to and part of the wider communion of believers.

24. This comprehensive understanding of spirituality has always been under challenge. The tendency has been strong to divorce the spiritual from the material, worship from work, religion from political and cultural

life in human society. In a time and a culture where all people acknowledged God and all structures were seen as operating under God's law (if not according to God's law), Luther developed his doctrine of the two kingdoms. This magnificent attempt to preserve the purity of the Gospel in a church which had given up direct access to political and economic power but was living in a society under God, is often called into question in today's secular world. It has been misinterpreted and misused by the powers that be, and many times used as an argument to silence the critique of the church concerning society.

25. One of the most frequent criticisms of the LWF lately, from a limited sector of our constituency, is that it has become "politicized". It is suggested that the LWF should not take sides on political matters and should not make public statements which by one or another are read as partial and biased. There is no question that the LWF must continually review its policy, method and practice regarding the issuing of public statements. In fact such a review is an inherent part of working procedures at the staff level. I find, however, that when such criticism is expressed it invariably reflects an understanding of spirituality which makes an inappropriate separation of the religious and the worldly realms and fails to apply the law and the gospel to all human affairs. Often such criticism is in itself politics in theological disguise. When we defend basic human rights, address apartheid, or take a clear position for peace, justice and the integrity of creation, this is upholding the law and the gospel before the world. We continue to recognize the whole creation as God's world, we refuse to withdraw into an ecclesiastical ghetto. The Gospel of Jesus Christ must be heard at the center of the world. The law of God must be known among those who make the decisions. This is where we must be, in obedience to our calling, in full recognition that God uses many institutions and all people of good will for his purposes in the world. The LWF has not become more "politicized". It is our duty as staff to implement the mandates given at the Assembly in Budapest and by later Executive Committee decisions. We try diligently to fulfill this difficult mission in faithfulness to God's Word, Law and Gospel. We are better equipped to do so now with our new special services for Christian Unity and for International Affairs and Human Rights approved by the Executive Committee in 1985. In the activities reports of the General Secretariat the many ways in which this ministry is carried out are placed before you for your critical review.
26. Some of the unease expressed by people who themselves are responsible for the Budapest mandates, indicate a certain deficit in our inner Lutheran dialogue on contemporary spirituality. When the two kingdoms doctrine was developed, the rulers understood themselves as the servants of God. The homogeneous society with one ruler, one people and one God, which became typical for European Lutheranism in the 17th century, was very different from ours. Even here in Scandinavia, where the church and the state are still closely related, the governments are now in reality constitutionally secular; ethnic, cultural and religious pluralism is rapidly increasing, and Lutheran doctrine is but one among many. The majority of Lutherans today live in pluralistic societies, often as a minority among people of other faiths and confessions. This is where a sound doctrine of creation must be maintained, this is where a generous and appreciative attitude toward people of other faiths and ideologies is called for, this is where triumphal language is out but servant language is made possible. Many member churches find themselves in situations where their confession is their daily response to shifting critical developments in their societies. They face governments and authorities with no respect for

God's law, situations where division of responsibilities according to the two kingdoms doctrine is not acknowledged. Therefore we need to reflect together continuously on our calling in order to prevent a dynamic Christian faith from turning into a doctrinal bulwark for the status quo. An inclusive understanding of spirituality helps us in this process.

27. If a reservation concerning political involvement is one effect of a narrow concept of spirituality, a distorted overemphasis of individualistic religious experience may be another. In some parts of the world, particularly in Western Europe and North America where almost 80 percent of the Lutherans have their home, there is a widespread search - especially among youth - for a new spiritual experience. One may even speak of a spiritual atheism, in contrast to the atheism of Marxism. Literature, music, film, theater and art are overflowing with the quest for some kind of spiritual guidance. When communication is stronger than community, a kind of religious supermarket develops where people pick and choose. Traditional world religions and a whole spectrum of new religions compete with the churches for attention and adherence. At the same time many forms of Christian fundamentalism, reflecting American subcultures more than genuine American values, make full use of electronic media and reach out to almost every corner of the world. The church is challenged by the awakened religious interest on one hand and by the plurality of answers on the other. This is a challenge that has been known for generations in parts of Africa and Asia. There is no one answer and we have to seek the answers together. The LWF Department of Studies in close cooperation with the World Council of Churches (WCC) following the development of new religious movements and also attempting to formulate a theological understanding of other religions. The LWF Department of Communication follows the manner in which the media are used by different Christian groups, and is constantly looking for responsible models.
28. But the concern goes further than that. Jesus challenges any spirituality which is divorced from ethics and social involvement. Authentic spirituality is not for the emotional satisfaction of the individual, nor is it a matter of self-realization in some psychological sense. Jesus speaks of emptying oneself, taking the cross, following him. St. Paul talks of sharing in the sufferings of Christ. Authentic spirituality is to find oneself by losing oneself. It is to become a participant in Christ's self-giving in costly solidarity with the world. It is contrary to all cheap grace.
29. There are many expressions of this type of authentic spirituality in situations of crisis among the member churches of the LWF. On the basis of Executive Committee action last year, a major Interconfessional Consultation on Namibia was held for the express purpose of exploring what Rev. Zephania Kameeta has called "the spiritual dimension of the Namibian struggle." Initiated by the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches in Namibia and supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope John Paul II, and the LWF, this consultation and visitation process sought to express the inherent integrity which binds together the deep personal faith of the believing community and the hard political activity required in the pursuit of Namibian independence. It has become increasingly clear to me that those who seek to separate what God has joined together in the life of the Namibian people (and they are many!) can only do so in open revolt against the law of God. The Department of Communication has produced a document on this subject entitled, "The Church and the Namibian Quest for Independence: One in the Body of Christ--Together a Free People" for your review at this

meeting. Conversations held in the LWF headquarters with leaders of liberation movements in Southern Africa, President Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress (ANC) and President Sam Nujoma of the South-West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) in Namibia - together with representatives of our member churches in the area - were expressions of a genuine Christian ministry of reconciliation in the interest of freedom and justice for a people who in their generation are experiencing "the third world war."

30. As churches on all continents struggle to fulfill their mission, to evangelize and re-evangelize, the inclusive character of spirituality must be kept in mind. If the two kingdoms doctrine and a weak ecclesiology have provided room for an unbiblical separation of different aspects of the Christian life, we are now called back by churches in Latin America, as well as Asia and Africa. Liberation theology in its many forms, African and black theology, Minjung and feminist theology, all object to this compartmentalization of life. Life is one and indivisible. As much as Jesus Christ was incarnate and true man, so we have no choice but to live a full life by the Gospel in this world. This is the message to us from the base communities in Latin America, this is confessed in much of the church renewal in Africa, this is the character of growing and involved churches in Korea or China.
31. The sacraments, these earthly carriers of Christ to a tangible, struggling communion of saints in every place, prevent us from spiritualizing and separating what belongs together. We recall that the word "devil" comes from the Greek word diaballo, which means to throw apart, to spread out, to separate. The contrast word is koinonia, communion, togetherness created by God and reestablished in Jesus Christ. Communion is our vocation, to live a life of reconciliation in every respect. Communion is an eschatological concept, but still we are under the mandate to pull all resources, our vision and prayer together in anticipation of what is in God's promises.
32. Through baptism every Christian is called to live this healed and healing life for others. We must admit that we often fail to make churches and organizations fully participatory. Lutheran churches, not least the "folk churches", by their emphasis on the distribution of Word and Sacraments, ironically enough have become very clerical in character. The laity, in spite of the priesthood of all believers, have often been reduced to consumers of what the ordained ministry offer them. The people of God are not invited to use all the gifts given to them for the well-being of the congregation, the community and the world.
33. In October of this year, the Synod of Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church will meet on "The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World Twenty Years after the Second Vatican Council." The preparatory document analyzes the contemporary human situation from the perspective of faith, discussing the laity, the mystery of the church, and the role of the laity in witnessing to Christ in the world. We have every reason to follow the deliberations of this synod with considerable care. It will renew the understanding voiced in 1 Peter that baptism makes us "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart". The same dignity is given to all, the same responsibility for the doxology, the diaconia and the martyria. But the document warns against "the grave danger of clericalizing the laity" and stresses the manifold ministries of the church. It calls every believer to a mission in solidarity with those who suffer from poverty and hunger, the oppressed, the marginalized

and the sick. The laity should, says the document, be "conscious above all of their responsibility to ecumenism. In fact the concern for re-establishing unity among Christians has to be shared by everyone according to her or his capacity."

34. I make this reference because I believe that this synod will reopen the whole laity concern in the ecumenical movement. In the years after the war, this concern was a predominant one. For Lutherans, having learned that a blacksmith or a housemaid carried out their God given vocations when hammering or sweeping while the priest did so when preaching, it was natural to place much emphasis on the role of the laity. The first Lutheran world assemblies held in a Europe in ruins could not but make the contribution of the laity to the reconstruction of church and society a key point on the agenda. In those days criticism of the Roman Catholic Church was implied in many ecumenical statements. Today it seems that the initiative has moved to the Roman Catholic Church while there has been too little reflection on the ministry of the laity among us.
35. In the LWF the particular role of women in church and society has been much discussed. Some progress has been made, but as you will learn from the special report to this Executive Committee developments are not all that encouraging. We need to make a concerted effort to implement the Budapest recommendations in the LWF and in the member churches. The spiritual life in most Christian communities is held up and nourished by women. It would be therefore, a disservice to women and to the church if the discussion were to be limited to their participation in the ordained ministry, important as that is to us. Lutheran theology implies full participation of the whole people of God in the mission of the church. We need to appreciate, encourage and support the mission of the laity in various sectors of the secular world. Only as we recover a theology of the laity, can we expect the participation of all. As much as the Roman Catholics we need to see that "clericalization of the laity" is not the answer. The answer is the recognition in a new context of Luther's teaching concerning Christian vocation.
36. The LWF working group now preparing a statement on mission has brought this point home. I quote from the second draft, now being circulated to the churches.

...All manifestations of the church, all its congregations and their individual members, have a part in the total mission of the church. Through baptism every Christian is commissioned for a life of witness and service..... The task of every congregation is to nurture and equip its members to take their part in mission and to assume their responsibility for the common mission task of the worldwide church.....
37. On my travels, I have seen churches and congregations where such words have come true. I am particularly thinking of the Lutheran congregations in Kazakstan, in the USSR. As they have not been able to train pastors for many decades, lay people have had to take up the pastoral responsibilities. Men or women whose spiritual gifts have been recognized, have been set apart to serve as shepherds for the flock. This is an eloquent expression of the sense of community, the building up of the whole people of God. Their deepest longing is for that day soon to come when these 500 scattered congregations and groups may organize themselves as one Lutheran church in the Asian part of the Soviet Union. Up to 50 young men are ready for the day when they can start to

train for the ordained ministry through a correspondence course or some other way adequate to the situation. But this will not reduce the importance of the lay ministry. After our visit in Moscow in June, we are hopeful that these things will come to pass in the near future. It confirms the many signs of a new openness in the situation in the Soviet Union. The historic event of the millenium of the Baptism of Russia, to be celebrated in 1988, is being prepared in the positive atmosphere of 'glasnost'. The spiritual reality of the Russian Orthodox Church is a source for renewal and joy also outside the walls of their crowded churches in that vast nation. With Christians around the world and in particular with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union, we will honour the Russian Orthodox Church for its faithfulness through a turbulent history. We will celebrate the millenium of the Baptism of Russia as a feast for all Christendom to the glory of the Triune God. Let prayers of thanks be said in all our Lutheran churches worldwide on that occasion! And let us as world communions use this occasion to further strengthen our bonds of common faith in the Triune God.

38. At the Nairobi Assembly of the WCC in 1975, the expression "spirituality for combat" was coined. We may interpret this as a spirituality for resistance, perseverance or struggle, a spirituality of hope. Some of you present here have experienced in your own lives what it means to be sustained in times of crisis by the Word, the Sacraments, prayer and the fellowship of believers. In the Lutheran communion again this year many names could be mentioned of people who have suffered torture and imprisonment, harassment and contempt for the sake of justice. The examples are numerous from El Salvador, Namibia, South Africa, the Occupied West Bank, that Palestinian Soweto which is the Gaza Strip, Chile and many other countries. They testify to the presence of Christ in their prison cells, they know in their bodies the meaning of a supportive worldwide communion. When one member suffers...
39. When the LWF was founded in 1947, one purpose was - as we have recalled these days - to provide mutual support in building a world of peace, justice and democracy after the Second World War. Today this need is even greater. Wars are raging, the number of refugees and displaced persons has never been larger, the debt crisis adds to the blight of hunger and poverty in many countries. The arms race accelerates while the gaps between the haves and the have-nots widen. In many ways it appears to be an apocalyptic situation. As we approach the year 2000 many millennialist Christian groups will interpret a combination of real or possible events -- nuclear disaster, the hunger crisis, the creation of the state of Israel, the AIDS epidemic and many other things -- as signs that the endtimes are coming. But as Lutherans we are called to be "planting-apple-tree-Christians". We must work with realism and endurance, persistently pointing to positive options and defending human values. We must not cease our efforts to get at the root causes of injustice, conflict and destruction, all the while witnessing to the One who is source of shalom and salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord.
40. In much the same way that the LWF Assembly in 1977 came to acknowledge the rejection of apartheid as a confessional matter, so should the LWF be prepared to recognize that the misuse of human and natural resources is directly related to our faith. Our concern for peace, justice and the integrity of creation is a confession by word and action of our faith in the Triune God who cares for and redeems the creation. It is thus a profoundly spiritual matter. Economic and political systems buttressed by huge military expenditures cause death to millions of

people who are denied the right to food, shelter, development and participation in decision making. Our God is a God who "gives justice to those denied it, gives food to the hungry, gives liberty to prisoners" (Psalm 146:7). Therefore we are obligated by the faith we confess to continue and increase our effort, including analysis, action and advocacy, and in cooperation with other organizations and institutions, to bring peace with justice to this troubled creation.

41. Through our Department of World Service we will continue to provide emergency relief and nation building programs in more than 40 nations. As the hunger catastrophe in Ethiopia is easing, a disaster of perhaps equal magnitude is developing in Mozambique. The special needs of the frontline states is being addressed in a program which will be reported to you by our colleagues of the Department of World Service. Between now and the next Assembly we wish to draw the special attention of all member churches to the debt issue. This is the negative side of the interdependence linking North and South. In 1986 alone the net transfer of resources from the poor countries to creditors in the industrialized countries reached nearly US \$ 30 billion. The debt crisis is a major impediment to sustainable human development in Africa and Latin America. It also threatens the Christian communion we are talking about. As I give this report to you, the 7th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD, takes place in Geneva. The LWF is there represented by a delegation of five to speak to the Assembly and to lobby the government delegates from all parts of the world. This is in accordance with the Budapest Resolution which asked the LWF to urge all national governments to strengthen their commitment to and support of agencies such as UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO and the World Food Council as forums where the economic interests of developing countries are strongly articulated. We are encouraged by the so-called "Oslo Statement", available to all of you at this meeting, a plea made in May this year by the churches in the North to their governments to give priority to the dramatic needs of the developing countries at UNCTAD VII. The Oslo Statement makes a helpful differentiation between debts to be paid according to international law and justice, and debts incurred by criminal and corrupt elites which accumulate funds for personal gain with no positive effect for the exploited masses of people. These are debts for which no entire nation and no already impoverished population alone should be held responsible. This observation puts the accent on the moral and spiritual dimension of the debt problem which like a cancer devours entire generations in the south, particularly in Latin America and Africa.
42. It was at the same Budapest Assembly that the LWF Executive Committee was asked to urge the member churches
  - that they encourage their congregations, in teaching, preaching, and worship, to examine the Scriptures with greater attention to the call to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to seek justice, and to be a church in solidarity with the poor.
  - that they work, on their own and bilaterally, whenever possible with their overseas partner churches, to conduct studies on the world political / economic situation and on specific economic issues such as those related to commodity prices and the expanding power of transnational corporations.
  - that they examine the relationship of their fund-raising efforts to development education and advocacy, calling upon their members to

practice not only charity but also justice.

43. In our work on the root causes of social and economic injustice, a stage has been reached at which we have to encourage all LWF member churches and related agencies to promote a wholistic and integrated approach to development. Encouraging examples may be cited from Ethiopia and Madagascar. This includes such elements as evangelism, communication, education and the motivation of people at the grassroots level. We are learning that the threats to peace, to the environment and to justice cannot be separated. As we have stated often this year, the LWF gives full support to the overall ecumenical concern which is labeled Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation. Our hope and fervent prayer is that the Roman Catholic Church will join other world communions in the process and make it a truly ecumenical endeavor with the World Council of Churches as the coordinator and lead agent.
44. We still believe, however, that the nuclear weapons pose a unique threat which, though closely related to other threats facing us, deserves special attention. Together with other bodies we continue to seek forums for a common Christian stand against all production, possession of, threat by and use of nuclear weapons. The doctrine of just war must be replaced by a doctrine of just peace in our generation. It is with profound gratitude that we take note of recent steps taken by the superpowers towards the elimination of intermediate range nuclear missiles in Europe. This will constitute the first real step toward disarmament. The bold initiatives for this new development towards a nuclear free world will forever be recorded in human history. It is a sign of a possible breakthrough for the concept of "common security" that these proposals are finally being taken seriously. We pray that this is only a beginning which may restore hope and confidence between nations now divided by ideological barriers and military blocks and encourage continued work also by the churches for peace and disarmament. Let there be no doubt that the LWF will continue together with other churches its humble efforts as long as the human family remains under the threat of annihilation by weapons of mass destruction. Are we not seeing an emerging consensus among the churches readying us for the day of a clear and universally binding Christian NO to nuclear warfare and all its instrumentalities and consequences?
45. In connection with this important matter, it is most gratifying to be able to report that a consultation has taken place in the headquarters in Geneva in June this year between the Christian Peace Conference (CPC) and the Lutheran World Federation. The delegation of the Christian Peace Conference was led by its President Bishop Karoly Toth, its Vice-President Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and its General Secretary Lubomir Mirejovsky. The LWF was represented by two Vice-Presidents, Bishop Johannes Hanselmann and Bishop David Preus, and the General Secretary together with members of Cabinet and staff.
46. The discussion clarified present program priorities in the area of peace and justice and explored possibilities for a deepened examination of the theological basis for Christian peace work. Both delegations emphasized the spiritual basis of faith and moral values as a specific contribution to be rendered by Christians in the global efforts to turn the arms race into a race for peace, development and justice. Continued contact should be maintained between the LWF and CPC in particular in those areas which are of special concern to our member churches who also are members of the CPC.
47. One particular concern which challenges our sense of being an inclu-

sive communion seeking a relevant expression of spirituality is the epidemic of AIDS. It recalls the simple word of Jesus: I was sick and you cared for me. And it reminds us of the healing and caring ministry of the church since that day. Since the first cases of the disease were recognized six years ago, the disease has now spread to all continents. In comparison with other epidemics, it still affects few people. There are other diseases which are incurable, there are other diseases for which there is no vaccine. But AIDS has drawn more frightened public attention and it raises ethical and spiritual questions. The World Health Organization deserves the full support of all governments in its medical strategy to combat the disease. The strategy of the church must be a complementary one, that of compassion, personal and spiritual care. In the LWF we must now join with other churches in a clear programme for pastoral care for those who suffer and for their families. We must overcome the fear of solidarity. We must break the terrible cycle of fatalism. AIDS is not a curse. It is a disease. God is not a sadist, God is love. The church can give its greatest support to the scientists of the medical profession when the church helps to break the taboo, mobilizes solidarity, moral support, care, love and pastoral care. The churches are called to protect the rights of those who are affected, to provide pastoral support for patients, families and friends and to seek common answers to the ethical issues involved. The church is being called to write a new and different chapter in its history of human solidarity. Therefore I recommend that the LWF, together with appropriate partners call for a consultation of people actively involved in pastoral counseling and theological reflection on AIDS to share experiences and develop guidelines for a responsible Christian approach to the problem in different contexts, and I ask the Executive Committee to act on this recommendation.

48. The earth which has been entrusted to our care, and for whose survival and life we bear responsibility, is the earth both created by God and redeemed through Jesus Christ who came to share our human existence. His incarnation is at the heart of our spirituality. His bodily, social, political and religious existence among us has for all times set the pattern for our human life. Even as he took upon himself the burdens of the sinful world, and shared in love our joys and our hopes, so the church which is his body in the world today, is called to do likewise. God has called this church in all its brokenness to be a sign for all creation. One in Christ, one in leitourgia, diakonia and martyria, one with those who live on the underside of history, the church in each place can be a sign of the Kingdom.
49. Permit me once more to remind ourselves that our communion is not based on statistics and size, but on life and spirit. Again during my visits with churches who have been used to calling themselves minority churches - and that often spills over to all aspects of their self image and self esteem - I have been reminded of the rich variety of gifts given exactly to these members of the body of Christ. Inspiring visits to Austria, Argentina, France - to mention a few where this observation may apply - can only serve to strengthen the thrust forward for a deeper more organic relation between all our member churches. Nowhere is the concept of communion better understood than in these churches. A poignant remark by Bishop Manas Buthelezi at the recent All Africa Lutheran Church Leaders Consultation in Madagascar has continued to vibrate in my heart. He told the Assembly how deeply he was moved when the General Secretary had spoken of the relation between LWF member churches as that of equal partners - as that of a koinonia - a communion. But then he had to contrast this spiritual reality to the every day experience of his own church. When his church wants to

deal with its partner churches in the North, preparations are carried out carefully on all levels in the church. Finally a delegation is established comprised of church leaders headed by the bishop. It is an important event in their life as a church. But then in their partner church they are often received by an Africa secretary - a secretary of a desk in a department as their counterpart. Most members of that partner church do not even know who that secretary is who handles vital issues of church and partnership. I heard this not as bitter remarks of prestige or hurt feelings, but as a deep understanding of what communion should imply as we relate to each other as partners. It is not a matter of psychology, it is rather a matter of spirituality which we need to learn as we move towards a deeper realization of communion, in a transformation process from paternalism to true partnership.

50. A sharing of spiritual gifts needs many means of communication - the smile of recognition, the embrace of love, the kiss of peace - but most basically it is simply a matter of understanding each other's language. How can we strive for a fuller communion if we continue to limit ourselves to two official languages - English and German? During this last year I have again and again been struck by the paramount importance of telling the story of our member churches to each other in languages which can be understood. It is almost ironical that in the churches where there is the greatest enthusiasm for the unity of the Lutheran family, the stories can not be shared and are not told because they can not be read. What about our French, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian and Kishwahili speaking churches - only to mention some major language groups? How much use do they have of our LWF material, our information services and reports? It is my firm conviction that the future of the Lutheran communion is local, as is the future of ecumenism. We must therefore seek new and imaginative ways to communicate beyond the office of the bishop to the level of the congregation. There the communion will be celebrated by the sharing of the mighty acts of God in Malawi, in Siberia, in Brazil, in China, in Papua New Guinea, in Madagascar. The three Lutheran Churches in the USA becoming one is providing an inspiration to local congregations not only on that continent. This depth dimension of our communion is what my first predecessor in the office as General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation Dr. S.C. Michelfelder saw in a glimpse, when he stated in his report to the Assembly in Lund:
51. "From this Assembly, delegates and visitors must return to their own countries charged with enthusiasm to make the discussions and findings the basis for further study and planning and work. The Lutheran World Federation must reach into the very "warp and woof" of the fabric of the church. Not only theological magazines, but church papers, Sunday School literature, laymen, lay women, young and old must be aware of their part in the Lutheran World Federation".
52. And he concluded his report:  

"May God give us His Holy Spirit so that we may see our duty in this confused, devastated and troubled world. May he give us grace to repent of our sins of commission and omission feel a new fellowship in Jesus Christ our Saviour, that in this world today we may be willing servants of Him who said, 'I will build my Church'".
53. A spirituality of communion - a mission and a vision. As already ob-

served there are so many signs today that people are beginning to revolt against their imprisonment in an exclusively immanent and materialistic world view and are now opening up to the transcendent. A new appreciation of the mystery of creative irrationality is dawning.

54. A spirituality of communion may be found to speak to this longing as it brings together the 'already now' and the 'not yet' as one reality. It reflects the communion in heaven and earth as one reality in the life of the Spirit. In Revelation 7, the text appointed for my sermon at the All Africa Lutheran Church Leaders Consultation in Madagascar, this eternal spirituality of communion takes on a dramatically visual reality as heaven is joined to earth:

55. "After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels who were standing in a circle around the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshiping God with these words, "Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen." One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, "Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?" I answered him, "You can tell me, my lord." Then he said, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over ~~them~~. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."

56. Our liturgy of life as a communion living by grace, has one purpose: to proclaim the glory of God in all creation and salvation in the Lamb who was slain for the world and to anticipate peace and justice for all. Our worship is the foretaste of the singing before the throne. It is an ecumenical and missionary spirituality which endeavors is to bring all nations and languages, all confessions and traditions to the springs of living water. With our hand God is already now wiping away the tears of these who suffer. With this vision and vocation, the Lutheran World Federation, now an experienced and mature organization, takes the next steps toward a visible communion in Christ for the unity of the whole church and for the life of the world - a worthy agenda for our next 40 years.

(Revised: 29 July 1987)

L I S T   O F   E X H I B I T S

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(\* indicates those exhibits enclosed with the minutes)

- \* 3.      Participants List
  
- 4.2R    Rules of Procedure
  
- \* 7.      Report of the General Secretary
  - 7.1    Activity Reports of the General Secretariat:
    - 7.1.1 Report of the General Secretary
    - 7.1.2 Report of the Associate General Secretary
    - 7.1.3 Report of the Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs
    - 7.1.4 Report of the Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights
  
- 9.1    Report on the Joint Commission Meetings, April 1987
  
- 9.2    Report of the Commission on World Service
  - 9.2.1 Summary of Proceedings of Meeting of CWS
  - 9.2.2 Report of the Chairperson of the ORSA subcommittee
  - 9.2.3 Report of the WS/CDS Director to the Executive Committee
  
- 9.3    Report of the Commission on Church Cooperation
  - 9.3.1 Director's Report to the Commission on Church Cooperation
  - 9.3.2 Response from the CCC to the report of the General Secretary at the Joint Commission Meetings, and questions from LWF Officers
  - 9.3.3 Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa
  - 9.3.4 Summary Report of the CCC to the Executive Committee
  
- 9.4    Report of the Commission on Studies
  - 9.4.1 Director's Report to the Commission on Studies
  - 9.4.2 Response of the Commission on Studies regarding the Of-

ficers questions and the restructuring of the LWF  
(with attachment)

9.4.3 Report on the Deliberations of the Projections Committee

9.4.4 Recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Commission on Studies

9.4.4.1 Theological Research Institute in the Southern Hemisphere (proposal)

9.5 Report of the Commission on Communication

9.5.1 Director's Report to the CC

10. Reports from the Agenda Committees and Staff

10.1 Report on Review Conference on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity, Hanover, FRG, November 1986

\* 10.1.A Report of the Agenda Committee

10.1.1 Final Statement: (Conference on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity)

10.1.2 The Suspension Issue

10.1.3 Recommendation on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity

10.1.4 List of Participants at Conference

10.1.5 Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity - Recommendation of the General Secretary to the Executive Committee

10.2 Report on Interconfessional Consultation on Namibia, Hanover, FRG, November 1986

10.2.1 A Message to the People of God

10.2.2 Namibia Consultation Findings

10.3 Report on the Palestinian-Israeli Issue

\* 10.3.A Report of the Agenda Committee

10.4 Report on Ethiopia

\* 10.4.A Report of the Agenda Committee

10.5 Progress Report on Structures

10.5.1 Structures of the Federation

10.6 Progress Report on Women's Participation in Decision-making bodies

- \* 10.6.A Report of the Agenda Committee
- 10.7 Report on the next Assembly
- 10.8 Report on Personnel Matters
- \* 10.8.A Report of the Agenda Committee
- 11. Report of the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations
  - 11.1 Interconfessional Dialogue and Ecclesiological Research
    - 11.1.1 Members of Dialogue Commissions
    - 11.1.2 Report of the Anglican/Lutheran International Continuation Committee
    - 11.1.3 Consultation on Episcopate
    - 11.1.4 Lutherans and Baptists Discuss Condemnation and Recognition
    - 11.1.5 Communiqué : Lutheran/Orthodox
    - 11.1.6 Communiqué : Lutheran/Reformed
    - 11.1.7 Communiqué : Lutheran/Roman Catholic
    - 11.1.8 Memo to Gunnar Staalsett on Developing "Communion" toward the Eighth LWF Assembly
    - 11.1.9 Proposal on the Ecumenical Relations of the LWF
    - 11.1.10 Proposal on Forum for Conversations between LWF and Non-Member Lutheran Churches
  - 11.2 Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg: Report 1986 - 1987
- 12. Annual Reports from Member Churches and National Committees (separate booklet)
- \* 13. Report of the Standing Finance Committee
  - 13.1 Report of the Treasurer and Comptroller
  - 13.2 Report on the Group Financial Statement 1986
  - 13.3 Audit Report 1986 on the Board of Directors of the Staff Welfare Plan
  - 13.4 Audit Report 1986 on the Lutheran Foundation for Inter-confessional Research, Strasbourg
  - 13.5 Authorized Signatories for Accounts in the Name of the Lutheran World Federation

13.6 Schedule of Membership Contributions

13.7 Principles for funding from Foundations

\* 14. Report of the Officers

15. Report of the Board of Trustees

\* 17. Report of the Constitution Committee (Part I, and Part II)

\* 18. Report of the Membership Committee

19. Report of the Review Committee on Programme Priorities

Revised

## AGENDA COMMITTEE: SOUTH AFRICA/NAMIBIA - CONFESSIONAL INTEGRITY

Chairperson: J.Crumley

Members: K.Dumeni  
J.Hanselmann  
D.Knall  
E.Kunert  
K.Mahn  
S.Nababan  
A.Songsare  
B.Werkström

Advisors: J.Fenomanana  
G.Gam  
T.Harlin  
A.Marava  
L.Olesen  
K.Schmale  
A.Sommerfeldt

- (1) 1. According to the resolution 10.4 of the LWF Assembly in Budapest, the LWF Executive Committee has been given the assignment to act on its behalf "should there be no positive movement on behalf of the 'white' churches by January 1987.
- (2) 2. In undertaking this task the LWF Executive Committee meeting in Viborg 1987 has
  - reexamined the resolutions of the Budapest Assembly and its interpretation at the Executive Committee meeting, Munich 1986;
  - evaluated the official statements by the suspended churches about racial discrimination (apartheid) since Budapest;
  - examined the report of the LWF Review Conference on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity, Hannover 1986, the report from UELCSWA to the LWF Executive Committee, July 6 - 15, 1987, Viborg about the events within UELCSWA since October 1986 as well as the annual report of the ELCSA to the Executive Committee 1987;
  - listened to oral reports of the recent developments in Namibia;
  - been informed about decisions taken in the (EKD) Evangelical Church Germany about its policy towards its partner churches in Southern Africa.

- (3) 3. What is asked for in the resolutions of the LWF Assembly in Budapest is the abolishment of all forms of racial discrimination in all LWF member churches regarding their life and witness in church and society. In particular, the Assembly has requested a close monitoring of the situation in the life of 'black' and 'white' churches in the Republic of South Africa and Namibia. The critical situation in this part of the world is increasingly alarming to the Lutheran communion and is seen also a growing threat to world peace.
- (4) 4. Resolution 10.3. of the LWF Assembly in Budapest calls upon those churches "that provide financial and personnel support to the suspended 'white' churches to reconsider agreements of cooperation and either to suspend their support, or, to assure that the support given in no way helps the subsidized 'white' churches to continue to resist the change called for but rather assist them to be reconciled with their black brothers and sisters".
- (5) 5. On the basis of the mandate given to the Executive Committee the General Secretary called a Review Conference on Confessional Integrity in 1986:
- to evaluate whether or not there has been evidence of a positive development with respect to reconciliation between 'black' and 'white' churches and a renunciation of the apartheid system in theory and practice, and
  - on the basis of such evaluation, to assist the General Secretary and, through him, the Executive Committee in its determination as to whether or not the supporting churches should be requested to either continue or terminate financial and personnel support to the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in South West Africa (GELCSWA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church).
- (6) 6. From the reports from Hannover, the member churches in Namibia, South Africa and Germany, and from members of the Executive Committee, we have learned of the continuing escalation of violence and suffering of members of the 'black' churches.
- (7) It is apparent that attempts to measure progress toward the fulfillment of the Budapest resolution are not conclusive. There are both positive and negative factors. Yet, the Hannover report states:
- (8) "There has been some movement by the 'white' churches. However, this movement has not yet reached the goal - of public and unequivocal rejection of the system of apartheid, and an end to the division of the church on racial grounds."

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (9) Based on the information available at the present time, the Executive Committee does not ask the overseas partners of the suspended churches to terminate all financial and personnel support.

However it is the deep concern of the LWF and its member churches that all agencies and churches work together towards the common goal of expressing visibly the unity of the church and purging all vestiges of apartheid from the life of church and society in South Africa and Namibia.

THEREFORE, we ask:

- (10) 1. the suspended churches to inform their congregations on all levels of the church leaders' statements rejecting the apartheid system and that, in view of the escalation of oppression to the black population, the members be urged to take the necessary actions to abolish apartheid in the actual daily life of church and society;
- (11) 2. 'white' churches openly to show solidarity with the members of the 'black' churches in their struggle for human rights;
- (12) 3. both the 'black' and 'white' churches to continue the steps for unity already begun, and we urge furthermore that in support of the Final Statement of the Review Conference on Southern Africa: Confessional Integrity
  - a) 'white' congregations call black pastors to serve them;
  - b) all congregational activities, including worship, holy communion and Sunday Schools, be conducted on an inter-racial basis;
  - c) pastors of 'black' and 'white' churches meet together regularly for Bible and theological study;
  - d) visits by members of the 'white' churches be made to congregations of the black townships and locations;
- (13) 4. the General Secretary to arrange a visit by an LWF delegation to the churches in Namibia and South Africa and to their overseas partner churches both to express our pastoral care and concern and to be more fully and directly informed of actions by the churches to implement the goals established by the LWF;
- (14) 5. the partners of the suspended churches to evaluate carefully whether their support in any way "helps the subsidized 'white' churches to continue to resist the change called for but rather assist them to be reconciled with their black brothers and sisters". (Budapest 10.3) We request that the Executive Committee be informed of the results of the evaluation;
- (15) 6. the Executive Committee, on the basis of the terms of the Budapest resolution, to evaluate the current situation at the 1988 meeting of the Executive Committee. Prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee, reports should be in hand from the churches, both 'black' and 'white', in Namibia and South Africa, the partner churches in Europe (5, above) and the delegation.



Revised

REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE ON THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI  
ISSUE

Chairperson: A.Aarflot

Members: T.Batong  
H.Gienke  
A.Haddad  
R.Nostbakken  
D.Preus  
W.Rehner

Advisors: K.Dummler  
D.Marple  
P.Hansen  
M.Sinnemäki

Staff: E.Ries  
P.Wee

- (1) The Agenda Committee on the Palestinian-Israeli Issue received the working paper prepared by the staff on the background and development leading up to the present situation of conflicting Israeli and Palestinian interests in the Holy Land. The Committee also had access to other specific documentation.
- (2) After discussion of the issue, the Agenda Committee agreed to make the following recommendations to the LWF Executive Committee:

A. The Staff Report on the Palestinian-Israeli Issue:

(3) IT IS RECOMMENDED

that the Executive Committee receive the staff report and refer it to the LWF member churches for study, reflection and possible action.

B. Conclusions and Recommendations:

(4) IT IS RECOMMENDED

that the Executive Committee adopt the following:

- (5) 1. The Lutheran World Federation and its member churches are part of the world-wide communion of believers with historical and

theological roots in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This tradition has its primary geographical origin in the land of Palestine. The fact that this land has been manipulated by foreign powers and contested by Jews and Palestinians in the course of history, most bitterly during the last half century, is an occasion of great sorrow. In spite of the immense complexities which characterize this situation today, the Lutheran World Federation does not support the view that the vicious circle of hatred and violence which has caused so much needless suffering to Palestinian and Jewish people cannot be broken.

- (6) 2. It can be broken by the power of love and justice which is inherent in the faith of Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. As part of the Christian community, the Lutheran World Federation, together with its Palestinian-Arab member church, witnesses to the reconciling power of love and justice which is incarnated in Jesus the Christ.
- (7) 3. In seeking to give concrete expression to healing and reconciliation amid the ambiguous and volatile reality of the present historical moment, the Lutheran World Federation affirms a fundamental commitment to uphold the essential dignity and rights of both the Palestinian and the Jewish peoples. It does so in the awareness of its own past failings, but also in the knowledge that the God of history is a God of gracious forgiveness who is able to turn even the most sinful creature into an instrument of healing, justice and peace.
- (8) 4. It is on this basis that the Lutheran World Federation seeks to use the resources entrusted to it in joining with those people of good will who seek to contribute to the emergence of secure structural relationships between Jewish and Palestinian peoples on the historic territory of Palestine.
- (9) 5. The Lutheran World Federation believes that Palestinian as well as Jewish people should have a legitimate right to live on the land of Palestine with safe and secure borders and with binding guarantees for full and equal political, economic and social life.
- (10) 6. It is upon this assumption, namely that both Jews and Palestinians have a legitimate claim to this land on which they can raise their children and bring forth the fruits of their labors without fear, that negotiations on the future of Palestine must rest.
- (11) 7. During recent years the Lutheran World Federation has sought to express these convictions through activities designed to strengthen ties with both the Palestinian and Jewish communities. The following recommendations for additional action are made in the earnest hope that both communities will welcome even modest contributions to better understanding, justice and peace.
- (12) 8. It is therefore **RECOMMENDED**:
- (13) a. that the LWF and its member churches, in response to the request of its member church on the Occupied West Bank, undertake those activities which contribute to a lessening of tensions and an increase in respect for the rights and dignity of

all people in the area, employing the most appropriate channels for this purpose;

- (14) b. that the LWF Executive Committee arrange for the visit of a delegation to Israel, the Occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the City of Jerusalem for the following purposes:
  - (15) 1) to hold discussions with Palestinian and Israeli leaders
  - (16) 2) to analyze further the human rights conditions
  - (17) 3) to recommend actions which might contribute to a just peace in the area;
- (18) c. that the LWF Executive Committee support the calling of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian question on condition that the Palestinians be represented by individuals and groups of their own choosing;
- (19) d. that the LWF and its member churches consider the possibility of establishing programs in which persons from the international community (youth, congregation members, tourists, leaders in politics, economics and religion) can visit Israel and the Occupied Territories for the purpose of gaining understanding and assisting efforts toward reconciliation and peace;
- (20) e. that the LWF and its member churches request governments in Europe to recognize the right of persons from the Occupied Territories holding travel documents issued by the Israeli authorities to receive visas and to travel on equal terms with persons of other nationalities;
- (21) f. that the LWF Executive Committee encourage its member churches to continue to support the work of the Middle East Council of Churches as it seeks to strengthen the unity of the churches of the Middle East and their common witness to understanding, justice and peace.



## AGENDA COMMITTEE "C": REPORT ETHIOPIA

The Agenda Committee on Ethiopia received and reviewed the report of the Deputation of LWF Representatives which visited the member churches in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Evangelical Church of Eritrea, in September 1986.

The Agenda Committee recommends that the Executive Committee receives the report with appreciation.

The Agenda Committee was briefed on the special situation in Ethiopia and on the LWF involvement in Ethiopia and recommends that this be continued.

The Agenda Committee especially welcomed the signing of the Letter of Understanding between the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Lutheran World Federation/World Service in June 1986 which sets out the way in which LWF/WS assistance is provided at the request of the member church concerned and recognises this to be the first step of a process which increasingly enables the EECMY itself to assume responsibility for implementing programs of assistance to people in need.



REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE  
LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION AND IN THE MEMBER CHURCHES

Chairperson: S. Telewoda

Members: S. Hoerschelmann  
P. Kortekangas  
L. Leffler  
K. Nissen (part-time)

Youth Consultant: K. Schuster

Advisors: C. Berglund (part-time)  
A. Hjerrild (part-time)

Staff: E. Reichle  
E. von Hertzberg (secretary)  
D. Millwood (part-time)

Guest: Unn Staalsett (part-time)

- (1) Ms. Telewoda opened the meeting and asked that one of the members offer a short prayer. After the role call she invited the participants to introduce themselves.
- (2) The Agenda Committee received and reviewed the report of the Secretary for Women in Church and Society as presented in Exhibit 10.6. In addition the Committee members made comments from their own experiences.
- (3) It was generally deplored that the responses of the churches to the letter from the General Secretary have not been forthcoming in order to provide sufficient information for the report.
- (4) The Committee members regretted the fact that although there has been an expression of willingness by the churches to implement the resolutions of the Assembly in Budapest regarding the participation of women in the churches and the LWF, implementing actions have not been forthcoming from a significant number of churches.

Recommendations

- (5) The Committee reaffirmed the resolutions of the Assembly in Budapest regarding the participation of women in LWF member churches and structures. It further supports the recommendations as forwarded by the Commission on Studies (Exhibit 9.4.4, page 1):

RECOMMENDED:

- (6) 1. that a plan be developed which provides for at least 40% representation of women in the overall composition of the

8th Assembly, giving consideration to the following suggestions:

- (7) a. that clear guidelines be given to the churches for complying with the plan in the appointment of their delegates, and
- (8) b. that larger delegations be requested to provide more women representatives in order to achieve 40% overall, and
- (9) c. that National Committees and church leaders be encouraged to work with women's groups and leaders in identifying women candidates for appointment, and
- (10) d. that the plan avoid the expectation that the youth representation also provide the women's representation, so that women delegates are mostly young,
- (11) 2. that attention be given to this representation of women in the appointment of Assembly committees and chairpersons, such as the Preparatory Committee, Nominating Committee, and other planning and working committees including LWF staff and local church committees;
- (12) 3. that in the development of the business meetings and entire program and worship life of the Assembly the perspective of women be included and consideration be given to full involvement of women in planning, implementing and leading the Assembly.

In addition the Agenda Committee

RECOMMENDS:

- (13) - that inclusive language (nonsexist, non-paternalistic) in all official Assembly documents, in presentations and worship be observed;
- (14) - that in all major LWF consultations women should constitute at least 30 % and that all other LWF conferences should not take place unless women are participating;
- (15) - that in order to support the recruitment of women for executive staff positions in Geneva administration, the General Secretary and the Department Directors be authorized to send letters of search for positions also to the church women's organizations for information, and that member churches be urged to submit names of women candidates;
- (16) - that an LWF interdepartmental staff committee on women be set up (example: the interdepartmental Youth Committee) to strengthen the cooperation between program units and departments;
- (17) - that all member churches and the LWF actively support and participate in the "Ecumenical Decade of the Churches' Solidarity with Women" which has been called by the World Council of Churches and will start Easter 1988.

## REPORT OF AGENDA COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL MATTERS

Chairperson:	K. Nissen
Members:	Ch. Rogestam H. Rehner M. Gomez A. Haddad S. Goolsarran Th. Batong
Absent:	P. Songsare
Consultants:	D. Marple Ch. Berglund R. Abraham
Absent:	M. Tudu
Staff:	E. Ries A. Lema

- (1) The chairperson called the first meeting to order at 7.20 a.m. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the following items should form the body of agenda to be discussed:
- (2)
  1. LWF Personnel Policies and Regulations
  2. Commissions' role in selection and appointment of staff
  3. Staff Performance Appraisal
  4. Renewal of Staff Contracts
  5. Code for Conduct
- (3)
  1. The Director of Personnel was asked to brief the committee on the functions of the various decision-making bodies regarding recruitment and appointment of programmatic and supervisory staff. It was pointed out that Personnel Policies are issued by the Officers, who are also an appointing authority.
- (4) Personnel regulations are issued by the General Secretary after consulting with both the cabinet and the Staff Representative Council.
- (5) Members of the cabinet are appointed by the Executive Committee with the General Secretary concurring. The Directors and Associate Directors are appointed by the Executive Committee upon nomination by Commissions and with the General Secretary concurring. All other members of the staff in grades 10 and above are appointed by the Officers with the General Secretary concurring. Before the appointment of an executive staff in any of the departments, the Director concerned consults with the Commission of his/her department in the process of selection and nomination of the staff to be hired. The same procedure and rule apply in case of renewal of contracts.

- (6) It was once again pointed out that a chart showing the relationship between tasks and functions of the various decision-making bodies and responsible staff at the LWF headquarters is available. This chart is an abbreviated interpretation of both personnel policies and regulations. It makes the tasks and responsibilities of each authority much more transparent than is the case in the Policies and Regulations. A few examples to this effect were indicated on the chart.
- (7) 2. This led to a discussion concerning the role of Commissions in selecting and appointing staff. It was suggested that:
- a) Procedure for nomination and appointment of staff should be reviewed with the intention of exploring possibilities of strengthening the role of Commissions in the process.
  - b) the Standing Committee on Structure be requested to discuss and propose an appropriate body - Officers or another special committee - within the LWF which should serve as personnel committee. The Structure Committee should, furthermore, work out terms of reference for the personnel committee indicating clear division of responsibilities between the Commissions on the one hand and the General Secretary/Department Director on the other.
- (8) It was also suggested that in the meantime, where and whenever the General Secretary feels unable to concur with a staff nomination from a department director or a renewal of contract, he should nevertheless report the wish of the department to the Officers or Executive Committee as the case may be.
- (9) 3. The Director of Personnel informed the committee about the plans which are underway in Geneva to develop an effective and uniform system of performance appraisal for the staff. A full-day meeting between the Cabinet and a consultant is scheduled in September. Some members of the committee suggested that performance appraisal should be carried out annually so that staff are made aware of how they are performing.

#### Code of Conduct

- (10) The committee noted that there were some members of the staff in Geneva who before taking up service with the LWF had been asked to sign a code of conduct requiring the staff's loyalty to the home church. It was strongly felt that on joining the LWF staff's loyalty would be with the Federation.

REPORT OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Standing Finance Committee met on July 7, 1987 and the following persons were present for the whole or part of the time:

Chairperson of the Meeting:	C.G. von Ehrenheim, Treasurer
Members of the Committee:	S. Goolsarran H. von Keler L. Leffler C. Rogestam A. Songsare
Other Executive Committee Members:	A. Kunert D. Preus
National Committee Members:	H. Hanson K. Schmale A. Sommerfeldt
Consultants:	R. Abraham C. Berglund D. Marple
Staff:	M. Ammann N. Hjelm I. Klaas R. Lehtonen A. Lema G. Messner E. Reichle E. Ries M. Stasius G. Staalsett
Interpreters:	I. Jonas D. Coleman

1. Report of the Treasurer and Comptroller

In presenting their joint report (Exhibit 13.1 of the Executive Committee Agenda) the Treasurer expressed appreciation for the continued support of the member churches which, together with careful administration and special contributions had made possible a balanced financial statement for the year 1986. In the report it was pointed out that all Departments had stayed under their Budgets expressed in Swiss francs, but showed overdrawals when converted to US-dollars, the working currency of the LWF. The reason is the strengthening of the Swiss franc versus the US-dollar.

Due to generous additional contributions from some member churches and substantial exchange gains from receipts in Deutschmark, the decrease of Swiss franc income from dollar contributions could be balanced out.

In respect to the 1987 financial situation, it was pointed out that the forecasted deficit of about US\$260'000 can be financed with additional exchange gains and reserves and is therefore not a reason for immediate concern, provided that the budgets are not overdrawn and that the US-dollar does not devalue more.

The Treasurer's and Comptroller's Report also described the process of setting up the 1988 Statement of Needs and the problems encountered which were also discussed further in connection with the agenda.

Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDS (1) that the report of the Treasurer and the Comptroller be received with appreciation as information.

## 2. Review of 1986

### 2.1 Approval of 1986 Audit Reports

Particular attention was given to the Group Financial Statement (Exhibit 13.2) (Item 2, Attachment 2.2) which summarizes the total financial affairs of the LWF. Appendix II of this statement shows that for the 1986 Composite Statement of Needs total expenditure amounted to \$ 61.217.921.

The Committee was informed that the Commissions on Church Cooperation, World Service, Studies and Communication and the Board of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, having dealt with their respective audit reports, had found them in order and recommended them for approval by the Executive Committee.

Accordingly, the Committee

RECOMMENDS (1) that the audit reports for 1986 for the General Secretariat, the Commissions and the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research; as well as the Group Financial Statement (see Exhibit 13.2) be accepted;

(2) that the contributions received from member churches towards the 1986 membership contributions be gratefully acknowledged and that the Lutheran World Federation place on record its appreciation to the LWF member churches, related agencies and other donors for the generous contributions towards the Lutheran World Federation and its programs during the year 1986.

## 2.2 1986 Audit Report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF

The Committee also gave attention to the audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the LWF as found in Exhibit 13.3.

In particular it was pointed out that the financial result of the Fund in 1986 was good.

The following are the more important key figures: Total income SFr. 1.316.889 of which SFr. 840.404 from interest and SFr. 476.485 from gains on investments. Total expenditure was SFr. 767.652 of which SFr. 621.078 for pensions. In 1986 the LWF contribution to the Fund was SFr. 833.204. The Fund increased by SFr. 1.777.428.

Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDS that the 1986 audit report of the Staff Welfare Plan of the Lutheran World Federation, having been approved by the SWP Board, be received as information;

## 3. Overview of 1987

### 3.1 Potential to cover 1987 Statement of Needs - (Assurances)

The income and expenditure projection for the Geneva 1987 "A" budgets, as presented in the Standing Finance Committee agenda Appendix 9, shows that as of June 1987 LWF could face a deficit of \$ 260.000 in respect of the Geneva Implementation costs, calculated at a rate of SFr. 1.55 to one Dollar.

This deficit could be absorbed by the shortfall funds, DM gains, the exchange reserves and the general reserves. Therefore, the financial needs for the 1987 Geneva implementation costs can be considered as covered.

Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDS

- 1) that the substantial support already provided by member churches, national committees and other contributing agencies towards the 1987 Composite Statement of Needs be gratefully acknowledged.
- 2) that the supporting churches and agencies be encouraged to assure the funds still needed for 1987.
- 3) that the Departments' and General Secretariat's expenditures be required to remain within the 1988 approved budgets.

#### 4. 1988 Composite Statement of Needs

##### 4.1 Approval of the Draft Statement of Needs

The Finance Committee reviewed the 1988 Geneva implementation of budgets as presented in item 4, attachment 4.1 of the Standing Finance Committee agenda and in the Abbreviated Analytical Statement of Needs (attachment 4.3). It was agreed that there be a Closed Session of the Finance Committee which meets one day prior to the annual Finance Committee meeting to do preparatory work for the full Committee Meeting in summer 1988.

The Finance Committee reviewed the overall financial situation of the LWF and looked at the specific finances of the General Secretariat and the Commissions. It was noted that Commissions have responded positively to the reduction of budget projections and that reductions will result in curtailing the programmatic functioning and ability of the Departments to carry out defined mandates.

The relationship between the decreases of the Departments' expenses and the increases of the expenses of the General Secretariat were discussed. After a discussion with the General Secretary, it was concluded that in the matter of budgeting and expense control, a specific review group such as a Commission did not exist for the General Secretariat. The General Secretary said he hoped that such a mechanism could be developed when the new structure is being considered. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee had clarified that such a review process is the responsibility of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will, therefore, include time at its next Committee meeting to fulfil this function.

Following discussion, the Committee

1) RECOMMENDS that the 1988 Statement of Needs for the General Secretariat, the departments of Studies, Church Cooperation, World Service, Communication and the Institute for Ecumenical Research, be authorized by the Executive Committee for submission to member churches, national committees and other potential donor agencies;

NOTES that the anticipated amount still to be assured for Geneva implementation costs for 1988 is about \$ 426.000.

NOTES In addition, \$150,000 is required annually in 1988, 1989 and 1990 to cover the costs of the Office for Christian Education in the Studies Department. It was agreed that this item be added to the 1988 Studies' Statement of Needs and it was noted that the extra funding for this position was reasonably assured.

- 2) RECOMMENDS that the LWF member churches and related agencies be urged to provide the assurances still required to fund the 1988 Geneva implementation costs of the General Secretariat and the departments of Church Cooperation, Studies and Communication.
- 3) RECOMMENDS that the departments and General Secretariat's expenditures be required to remain within the 1988 approved budgets.
- 4) RECOMMENDS that unavoidable overdrawing of the approved budget in the General Secretariat needs the prior approval of the Officers.

5. Approval of 1988 Membership Contributions

Following discussion, the Committee

RECOMMENDS that the 1988 membership contribution be authorized in the amount of \$ 1.454.000 as listed in Exhibit 13.6 of the Executive Committee agenda.

5.1 Approval of the Apportionment of the 1988 Membership Contributions

With respect to the allocation of membership contributions to the headquarters' budget, the Committee

RECOMMENDS that the anticipated income of \$ 1.454.000 from membership contributions be allocated as follows:

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
General Secretariat	\$ 961.000	979.765
Department of Studies	\$ 153.000	145.000
Department of Communication	\$ 340.000	260.000

Accordingly, the financing of the budget of the General Secretariat for 1988 is envisaged as shown in Item 4, Attachment E, leaving a projected deficit of \$ 66.000.

6. Approval of the Revised Apportionment of the Office of Finance and Administration (OFPA) Subsidy

The Committee was informed that the revised contributions of the departments to the OFPA budget in 1988, would amount to \$ 978.000. This amount will be shared proportionately among the departments. The Committee

RECOMMENDS that the 1988 revised OFPA subsidy allocation be approved.

7. VIIIth Assembly Fund

The Committee reviewed the status report of the VIIIth Assembly Fund, and noted that only a small percentage of churches had thus far responded to the Finance Plan. It

- RECOMMENDS (1) that the Executive Committee reiterate its appeal to the member churches to provide funds for the VIIIth Assembly Fund over the period 1987 - 1990 on a yearly basis.
- (2) that the Executive Committee authorises the Comptroller to request the member churches whose total contribution over 5 years is less than \$ 600, to pay their full share already in 1987; or that they agree that the amount be deducted from an LWF-supported project, with the understanding that the Church concerned will then provide the funds for the project in local currency.

8. Study on Implications of providing Financial Benefits for each Year of Service

The conclusions of a study on this possibility by the actuary, Schweizerische Treuhandgesellschaft, (Appendix 8.2, pages 1 and 2 of the Finance Committee agenda), were presented. The Committee

- RECOMMENDS (1) that the reports from the Staff Welfare Plan (SWP) actuary and the LWF Comptroller be received as information; with the understanding that a follow-up report be made to the 1988 Officers' meeting; and the Finance and Executive Committee meetings, before final action is taken by the SWP Board.

- RECOMMENDS (2) that as part of the LWF Structure Study, the level of remuneration in LWF, WCC and other Geneva-based Church agencies should be included.

9. Procedures for Funding from Foundations

Following a presentation by the Comptroller and Chairman, the Committee recommends that the following requirements be observed when LWF is approaching foundations:

- 1) Before a request is submitted to a foundation, an agreement with the church/ national committee in the country of the foundation should be obtained about the desirability, the goal and the method of approaching such foundation. Wherever possible, the church/ national committee should be asked to cooperate with the LWF or act on its behalf in presenting the request in support of LWF programmes/ projects.
- 2) Before a formal request is submitted, information should be obtained and made available to the planners and decision-makers concerned in the LWF and the respective member church/ national committee on the policies and grant emphases of the foundation and on its grant record in order to assure the LWF that:
  - a) the objectives of the foundation concerned are not in conflict with the objectives of the LWF programme/ project for which support is sought; and
  - b) an approach to the foundation or receiving funding from it will not influence adversely the image of the project/ programme of the LWF or the credibility of the LWF among those whom the project/ programme is to serve.
- 3) In initial contacts with a foundation, the LWF should state its nature and function and also the specific objectives of the programme/ project so as to ensure its own integrity when seeking foundation support.
- 4) Financial support from any one Foundation for a programme/ project should not normally exceed 40% of of the total Funds needed for that programme/ project.
- 5) The agreement with the Foundation should state the length of time during which a project will be supported if it is not a one-time request.

10. Review of Banking Arrangements and Bank Signing Authorities

This item, which is included in the Executive Committee Agenda (Exhibit 13.5) was received as information.



REPORT OF THE OFFICERS  
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(of their meeting beginning Monday, 6 July 1987 and resumed Tuesday, 7 July 1987 in Viborg, Denmark)

Present: LWF Officers

Rt. Rev. Johannes Hanselmann  
Rev. Augusto Kunert  
Dr. Soritua Nababan  
Rev. David Preus  
Ms. Susannah Telewoda

Treasurer: Mr. Carl Gustav von Ehrenheim

Invited Guest (for item 5.1)

Dr. Karl Dummmler

LWF Cabinet Members

Dr. Gunnar Staalsett (General Secretary)  
Dr. Anza Lema (Associate General Secretary)  
Ms. Christa Held (Director of WS/CDS)  
Rev. Norman Hjelm (Director of DOC)  
Dr. Risto Lehtonen (Director of DCC)  
Mr. Gerhard Messner (Comptroller)  
Dr. Erika Reichle (Director of DS)  
Dr. Eugene Ries (Director of WS)

Other LWF Staff

Dr. Jonas Jonson (General Secretariat)  
Dr. Paul Wee (General Secretariat)  
Dr. Roger Kahle (Information Bureau)  
Ms. Ingrid Kraehenbuehl  
Ms. Margaret Howe

Interpreters

Ms. Ursula Gassmann  
Ms. Ingrid Jonas  
M. Margaret Pater

1. Opening

Mrs. Susannah Telewoda welcomed participants and then led the opening devotions.

The Officers called upon Bishop Preus to take the chair.

## 2. Agenda and Time Schedule

It was agreed to follow the proposed time schedule and agenda for the meeting as closely as possible. Dr. Staalsett mentioned that there would be need for a further meeting before the Executive Committee proper began its work.

## 3. Introduction to the Executive Committee Agenda by the General Secretary

The General Secretary introduced the revised time schedule for the Executive Committee Meeting which had just been circulated. He informed the Officers that the question of the vacancy caused by the death of President Kaldy would be raised at the meeting of the Constitution Committee. Also foreseen was the need for a special session of the Executive Committee to hear and act on whatever proposal the Constitution Committee decide to bring. It was agreed that this should be a closed session and that it should take place as soon as possible following the opening and roll call, after the first break. It was also agreed that a statement to all participants to this effect should be made as soon as possible.

The General Secretary also mentioned that the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relations would be considering a proposal from him on the creation of a forum for discussion between the LWF and Lutheran churches not members of the Federation. This would also be brought to the Executive Committee plenary session for information and discussion.

The Review Committee on Program Priorities would be meeting to consider the outcome of the Joint Commission Meetings. They would be bringing their observations in their report to the Executive Committee.

Dr. Staalsett then introduced the subject of the agenda committees which were being proposed to consider the topics of LWF's involvement in Ethiopia, the question of Southern Africa - Confessional Integrity, the Palestine/Israel issue and the role of women in the member churches and in the LWF. A proposal regarding the membership of these committees would be brought to the Executive Committee after the Officers had worked on it. It was also foreseen that two standing committees would be appointed by the Executive Committee, namely an Assembly Committee and one on restructuring of the LWF. If the Executive Committee was to make a statement on the 40th anniversary of the Federation, then possibly a committee should also be convened to prepare it.

The General Secretary then observed that, as had been the case last year, his report Exhibit 7 would develop one theological theme with reference to the work of LWF, but that the discussion of Exhibit 7.1, Activity Reports of the staff of the General Secretariat which had also been circulated should be taken up at the time of his presentation.

## 4. Financial Matters

Mr. Gerhard Messner, the LWF Comptroller, reporting on the pres-

ent and projected financial situation, drew attention to the grave situation facing the LWF in 1988. By taking quite severe measures to reduce the budget, the projected deficit had been brought down to US\$ 426,000. However, to reach this figure it had been necessary to leave unfilled the vacancies for Christian Education Desk, Department of Studies, Associate Director in the Department of Church Cooperation, 2 positions in the Department of Communication and one position in the Finance Office. Even then it was not clear at this time how the remaining deficit would be covered.

This issue was discussed at great length and regret was expressed that the post of Christian Education would be left unfilled. The program was considered crucial and the candidate nominated had received a very high recommendation. The Director of the Department of Studies, Dr. Erika Reichle, mentioned that the Commission on Studies had had an impossible decision to make regarding whether to leave the Women's Desk vacant or the Christian Education Desk vacant as there was only sufficient funding for one. They felt compelled to keep the Women's Desk. It was agreed that extra effort should be made to secure the necessary extra funding for the position of Christian Education.

Some general disappointment was expressed at the lack of suggestions for cuts coming from the Commissions, which could result in the Executive Committee having to make painful decisions for them, and without their detailed knowledge of the projects and programs. It was also pointed out that there had been some increase in expenditure in the Central Administration which had exacerbated the situation. On the other hand some views were expressed that there were positive signs indicating that the situation until the Assembly would be manageable. However, the seriousness of the threat to certain programs - unless further support was forthcoming - had to be taken into account. It was hoped that the Finance Committee could find some further possibilities of reducing the deficit.

## 5. Review of Personnel Policies

The General Secretary invited Anza Lema, as Personnel Director of LWF, to introduce two proposed changes to the LWF Personnel Regulations. He also welcomed Dr. Dummier to the meeting for item 5.1 below.

### 5.1 Retirement

Anza Lema pointed out that there was a discrepancy between the LWF Personnel Policies and the Regulations of the Staff Welfare Plan. The latter states that "a member of staff shall reach retirement age at the end of the month in which the member completes his/her 62nd year". On the other hand the Personnel Policies state that a staff member may retire as early as the age of 62 or may have his/her contract renewed up to the age of 65. A proposal was presented to the Officers that the wording of the Personnel Policies should be brought into line with the regulations of the Staff Welfare Plan, so that the normal age for retirement became 62 years with an option for the appointing authority to extend a staff member's term of service for up to two years when deemed of special interest to the LWF cases.

In the discussion further study was recommended to ascertain the social and economic implications for such a change for staff members. The General Secretary said that the staff would pursue this and bring a revised proposal to the next meeting of the Officers, in February 1988, after a careful study of the matter by representatives of Finance, Personnel and Staff Welfare Plan to this end.

#### The Officers

VOTED: to postpone consideration regarding the Personnel Policies 8.3 concerning the age of staff retirement until their meeting in February 1988.

The General Secretary thanked Dr. Dummler for his participation.

#### 5.2 Period of contract for programmatic staff

As Personnel Director, Anza Lema presented a second proposal to the Officers stating that newly appointed members of staff with programmatic and supervisory responsibilities should have a contract of four rather than three years. The reason for this proposal was that a three year contract came up for renewal after only 18 months of service of a staff member and it was generally felt that this was too soon to make a decision regarding renewal or non-renewal of a staff member's contract. After some discussion regarding the reasons for this alteration, the Officers

VOTED: that the first contract for staff with programmatic and supervisory responsibilities should be of four year's duration rather than three.

#### 5.3 Chart indicating division of responsibilities for personnel matters within the LWF

For information, Anza Lema circulated a comprehensive chart indicating who carried which responsibilities with regard to personnel matters within the LWF. The Officers expressed their appreciation for this helpful document and Mrs. Telewoda proposed that it should be circulated to all members of the Executive Committee. This proposal was welcomed and the General Secretary promised that it would be sent out by mail before the end of the year.

Lema pointed out also that as indicated in the chart, the Personnel Office which thus far had been responsible for posting of vacancies related to support staff would in future post vacancies of all staff members in headquarters. After consultation with heads of units concerned, it would also be responsible for letters sent to member churches asking for nominations of programmatic and supervisory staff.

## 6. Personnel Matters

### 6.1 Appointments and Renewals of Terms (by Executive Committee)

The General Secretary reported for information to the Officers on what he would recommend to the Executive Committee regarding the appointment or renewal of terms of the following members of staff:

#### 6.1.1 Appointment of Director of Department of Church Cooperation

After explaining the nomination process for the new director of Department of Church Cooperation, and reviewing the candidates for the post as well as the discussion of this matter by the Commission on Church Cooperation in April, the General Secretary reported the recommendation to appoint Dr. Ishmael Noko as the new Director of the Department of Church Cooperation.

#### 6.1.2 The Comptroller, General Secretariat

The General Secretary reviewed the work of the Comptroller and reported that he would propose that the Executive Committee renew the term of service of the Comptroller, Mr. Gerhard Messner for another term of three years from 1 May 1988.

#### 6.1.3 Director of the Department of Communication

The General Secretary reviewed the work of the Director of the Department of Communication and reported that he would propose that the Executive Committee renew the term of service of the Director of the Department of Communication, Rev. Norman Hjelm for another term of three years from 1 January 1988.

#### 6.1.4 Associate Director of Studies

The General Secretary informed the Officers that he would recommend to the Executive Committee that Dr. Eugene Brand should continue to serve as Associate Director of Studies until the end of his term of service, in 1989.

### 6.2 Appointments and Renewals of Terms (by Officers)

The Director of the Department of Studies made a presentation to the Officers on the following two new appointments, giving details of the curriculum vitae of the candidates including their educational and professional qualifications, work experience, and especially their suitability for the jobs mentioned:

#### 6.2.1 Appointment of Secretary for Women in Church and Society, Department of Studies

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Studies and with the concurrence of the General Secretary,

## The Officers

VOTED: to appoint Dr. Musimbi R. A. KANYORO to the position of Secretary for Women in Church and Society for a period of four years.

### 6.2.2 Appointment of Secretary for Christian Education, Department of Studies

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Studies, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to appoint Ms Sandra Ella HOLLOWAY to the position of Secretary for Christian Education for a period of four years.

The Director of the Department of Studies then conveyed recommendations given by the Commission on Studies regarding the renewal of the term of service of the following staff members:

### 6.2.3 Secretary for the Church and People of Other Faiths, Department of Studies (Expiration of term: 31 August 1987)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Studies, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Dr. Paul Rajashekar's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 August, 1990.

### 6.2.4 Secretary for Theological Education and Personnel Development, Department of Studies (Expiration of term: 31 December, 1987)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Studies, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend the Rev. Dr. Nelson Kirst's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 December, 1990.

The Director of the Department of Church Cooperation then conveyed the recommendations of the Commission on Church Cooperation regarding the renewal of the terms of the following staff members:

### 6.2.5 Secretary for Project Administration and Finance, Department of Church Cooperation (Expiration of term: 28 February 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Church Cooperation, and with the concurrence of the General

Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Ms. Margret Stasius' term by a period of three years, i.e. until 28 February 1991.

6.2.6 Secretary for Africa, Department of Church Cooperation  
(Expiration of term: 31 July 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Church Cooperation, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Rev. Noel Rabemanantsoa's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 July 1991.

6.2.7 Youth Coordinator, Department of Church Cooperation  
(Expiration of term: 31 August 1988)

The Commission on Church Cooperation had recommended a renewal for a period of 3 years. The General Secretary had concurred with a renewal, but informed that in agreement with the incumbent, the period of service be terminated when the necessary follow-up work of the next Assembly had been concluded in 1990. Therefore, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Rev. Julius Filo's term through the next LWF Assembly, 1990, the exact date to be decided by the Officers.

6.2.8 Secretary for Program Administration, Department of Church Cooperation (Expiration of term: 31 August 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Church Cooperation, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Ms. Luanne Siliaemaa's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 August 1991.

The Director of the Department of World Service made a presentation to the Officers on the following new appointment, giving details of the candidate's curriculum vitae including educational and professional qualifications, and especially his suitability for the job mentioned:

6.2.9 Appointment of CDS Secretary for Latin America, Department of World Service

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, The Officers

VOTED: to appoint Mr. Oscar Franklin CANELOS to the position of CDS Secretary for Latin America for a period of four years, from 1 January 1988.

The Director of the Department of World Service then conveyed recommendations given by the Commission on World Service regarding the renewal of the term of service of the following staff members:

6.2.10 Secretary for Personnel and Legal Services, Department of World Service (Expiration of term: 15 June 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Mr. Claus Doelling's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 15 June 1991.

6.2.11 Secretary for Communication and Documentation, Department of World Service (Expiration of term: 30 April 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Mr. Dennis Frado's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 30 April 1991.

6.2.12 Secretary for Program Implementation, Department of World Service (Expiration of term: 31 December 1987)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Mr. Carl Nielsen's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 December 1990.

6.2.13 Secretary for Liaison and Interpretation, Department of World Service (Expiration of term: 30 April 1988)

Decision Deferred.

6.2.14 Secretary for African Drought Response, Department of World Service (Expiration of term: 31 December 1987)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service, and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Mr. Leo Siliaemaa's term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 December 1990.

The Director of the Department of Communication then conveyed recommendations given by the Commission on Communication regarding the renewal of the term of service of the following

staff member:

6.2.15 Executive Secretary for Consultative Services, Department of Communication (Expiration of term: 31 August 1988)

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on Communication and with the concurrence of the General Secretary, the Officers

VOTED: to extend Dr. Menkir Esayas' term by a period of three years, i.e. until 31 August 1991.

6.2.16 English Language Editor, Information Bureau (Expiration of term: 31 August 1988)

It was reported that Dr. Roger Kahle had been appointed the Managing Editor of "The Lutheran", the journal of the newly constituted Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and that he would be taking up his appointment on 1 October 1987. The Officers expressed their congratulation to Dr. Kahle for this important appointment.

The Director of the Department of Communication informed the Officers about a report he will be making to the Executive Committee of a discussion held at the last Commission on Communication meeting concerning the role and objectives of the LWI. Both he and the Commission had come to the conclusion that there was need to review the role, objectives and structure of the Information Bureau. This desire had also been expressed by representatives of some member churches. This would have consequences for the question of how the work of the English editor should be continued.

7. Board of Trustees

The Comptroller introduced one matter under this agenda item, a report on the Power of Attorney for Jerusalem. At the Officers' Meeting in February 1987 it had been resolved to give the Power of Attorney to the representative of the Norwegian Mission in Israel. Now this had expired and the Officers and staff all agreed that it was important that it be renewed without delay.

The Officers

VOTED: to accept the Comptroller's proposal to (a) extend the Power of Attorney of the Norwegian Mission for one year until July 1988, and (b) to review the LWF's responsibilities in this matter and clarify the relationship with the Norwegian Mission to Israel.

## 8. Miscellaneous

The General Secretary presented a proposal for the composition of agenda committees for the issues of (a) South Africa: Confessional Integrity and Namibia, (b) the Palestine-Israel issue, (c) LWF involvement in Ethiopia, (d) the role of women in LWF and member churches, (e) 40th Anniversary Statement by the LWF Executive Committee. During discussion, it was agreed that committee (e) could be disbanded to add weight to the other committees on the understanding that the Officers would bring a draft statement to the Executive Committee, Norman Hjelm agreed to work on this.

It had been suggested that only members of the Executive Committee should participate, supported by members of staff. However, apart from some changes of names proposed by the Officers, it was also agreed that youth consultants, Commission Chairpersons and advisers from National Committees should also be part of the committees. Staff were asked to prepare the revised list of agenda committees for presentation to the Executive Committee under item 8, Nominations.

### 8.1 Nominations

Proposals for consideration by the Officers and referral to the Executive Committee were brought on four committees as follows:

#### 8.1.1 Proposal on a Structure Committee

After some discussion, the Officers

VOTED: To propose the following names to the Executive Committee as a Standing Committee on Structure :

CRUMLEY, James (Chair)	USA
ROGESTAM, Christina	Sweden
KOLOWA, Sebastian	Tanzania
HOERSCHELMANN, Sieghilde	FRG
BATONG, Thomas	Philippines

#### 8.1.2 Proposal on Assembly Committee

The staff brought a proposal to the Officers for a Standing Committee on the Assembly, consisting of 6 Executive Committee Members and one Youth Consultant with the four Commission Chairpersons attending as consultants. With one change of name, the Officers

VOTED: to propose the following names to the Executive Committee for a Standing Subcommittee on the Assembly:

MAHN, Kaete (Chair)	FRG
LEICH, Werner	GDR
KUNERT, Augusto	BRAZIL
GOOLSARAN, Samuel J.	GUYANA
PREUS, David	USA
HADDAD, Aida	JORDAN

+ Youth member of the Executive Committee

+ Four Commission Chair Persons as consultants

8.1.3 Proposal on Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa (Special Project)

As an appendix to Exhibit 9.3 the Officers considered a proposal prepared by the Staff Coordinating Group on Theological Education. There was some discussion on how names had been gathered from member churches. Feeling was expressed that it had not been an African initiative and that not all African member churches had been kept fully involved. The Officers

VOTED: To propose the following seven names to the Executive Committee as members of the Advisory Committee on Theological Education in Africa (Special Project):

Ato Abebe Yohanes, EECMY  
Rev. Jean Fenomanana, Malagasy Lutheran Church  
Ms Eglah B. Gideon, Lutheran Church in Nigeria  
Dr. Ambrose Moyo, ELC in Zimbabwe  
Dr. Vivian Msomi, ELC in Southern Africa  
Dr. Hance Mwakabana, ELC in Tanzania  
Rev. Ngah Joseph, ELC of Cameroon

There were four votes in favour, one abstention, and a vote against from Mrs. Telewoda. She wished to go on record as saying that she was not satisfied because the final list of the composition of the Advisory Committee presented to the African Church leaders at the All Africa Lutheran Consultation held in Madagascar in June 1987 was given only for information and that there had been no time to discuss it.

8.1.4 Proposal on LWF members of Inter Lutheran Forum

In line with Exhibit 11.1.10 (Forum for Conversations with NonMember Lutheran Churches), a proposal of six names was given to the Officers to present to the Executive Committee. It was agreed to refer the list back for revision.

8.2 Venue and Date of Next Assembly

Official invitations had been received from the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil and from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The Brazilian church, having carefully studied the alternative venue possibilities, recommended that the Assembly be held in CURITIBA, State of Parana at the Catholic University campus there. The date proposed was late January/early February 1990. The General Secretary said that the dates between 20 January and 10 February 1990 should be kept free until exact dates were confirmed. The Officers

VOTED: to propose to the Executive Committee that the next LWF Assembly be held in CURITIBA, Brazil in late January, early February 1990.

### 8.3 Venue and date of next Executive Committee Meeting

The General Secretary reported that an official invitation had been received from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus to hold the 1988 Executive Committee Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and that he had received an undertaking from the Ethiopian Government that the LWF would be permitted to do so, and that it would be free to discuss sensitive issues related to their work in Ethiopia. An invitation had also been received from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon, though budget projections showed that to meet in Cameroon would place a considerably greater burden on LWF resources. The dates of the next meeting were confirmed to be those appearing in the minutes of the 1986 Executive Committee Meeting. The Officers

VOTED: to recommend to the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee Meeting for 1988 be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20 - 30 June 1988.

### 8.4 Venue and Date of Executive Committee Meeting, 1989

The General Secretary reported that originally the USA had been foreseen as a venue for the 1989 Executive Committee Meeting. In view of the tradition to hold the last Executive Committee meeting before an Assembly in Geneva because staff involvement and reduction of costs were of crucial importance, he therefore proposed to the Officers that the 1989 meeting be held in Geneva, July 30 - August 9 1989. The Officers

VOTED: to recommend to the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee Meeting for 1989 be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 30 July - 9 August 1989.

### 8.5 Letter from Commission Chairpersons

A letter had been sent to the Executive Committee by the four Chairpersons of the LWF commissions requesting that as they are involved in the appointment and renewal of terms of service of executive staff as prescribed in the Personnel Policies, they should be included in the discussions of the Executive Committee of such matters. At present they are excluded from such discussions according to the Rules of Procedure (Exh. 4.2.R points 1.2.3) unless an exception is made by the Executive Committee or the President in consultation with the Officers. The Chairpersons requested that the Rules of Procedure be clarified where personnel matters affecting the individual Commission Chairperson were involved.

After discussion, the Officers

VOTED: (1) To refer the request of Commission Chairpersons to the Structure Committee for consideration.

(2) meanwhile the Rules of Procedure should continue to apply so that any Commission Chairperson wishing to be present at such a session should ask Executive Committee or President in consultation with Officers

to make an exception in their particular case.

8.6 Proceedings and time for election of a vice president

The Officers shared some views on how to proceed with the forthcoming election, and encouraged the President to seek clarification in consultation with the Constitution Committee Chairperson and the groups holding different positions on this issue.

8.7 Welcome of New President

The Officers took the opportunity of thanksgiving and celebrating the election of Bishop Johannes Hanselmann as LWF President. Good wishes and hopes for good collaboration with all concerned were expressed.

9. Date and Time of next meeting

The next Officers' Meeting will be held in Geneva, 1-3 February 1988.

Special Meeting of the Officers

15 July 1987, Viborg, Denmark

PRESENT: LWF Officers

Ms. Aida Haddad  
Rev. Augusto Kunert  
Dr. Soritua Nababan  
Ms. Susannah Telewoda  
Mr. Carl Gustav von Ehrenheim

LWF Staff

Dr. Gunnar Staalsett  
Dr. Anza Lema  
Dr. Eugene Ries  
Ms. Christa Held

Apologies were received from Bishop Preus and from the President, Bishop Hanselmann, who had asked Dr. Nababan to take the chair.

This was Ms Aida Haddad's first meeting as a Vice-President and she was warmly welcomed.

The meeting had been convened to appoint a replacement in the Department of World Service for Dr. Ishmael Noko who had been appointed to the position of Director of the Department of Church Cooperation. Dr. Nababan called upon Dr. Ries to provide information about the candidates for this position. The Officers

Upon the recommendation of the Commission on World Service and with the concurrence of the General Secretary,

VOTED: to appoint Ms Kaanaeli MAKUNDI to the post of Secretary for Liaison and Interpretation for a term of four years beginning 1 October 1987.

## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

Part I: Recommendations to the Executive Committee on the Election of the President

1. That the Executive Committee proceed to elect a president according to the continuing resolution adopted in 1978.

"In the event the President is unable to exercise the function of the office - be it because of death or any other incapacitating circumstance - the General Secretary shall inform the other Officers of the situation which has arisen. In case of apparent incapacitation the Officers shall decide, on the basis of all available and carefully scrutinized information whether, in fact, the President is unable to exercise the functions, either temporarily or permanently.

In the case of death or incapacitation, the Officers shall work in consultation with the General Secretary to assure that any responsibilities of the Office of President are fulfilled. At its next meeting the Executive Committee shall elect a President ad interim from its membership.

Such election shall remain in force, in the case of incapacitation until the duly elected President is able to resume the exercise of the function, or otherwise until the next Assembly."

2. That the person so elected shall serve until the close of the next Assembly and shall be ineligible for election to a full term at that time.
3. That the balloting process be conducted in a closed session and continue without interruption until an election has occurred.
4. That voting shall be limited to five ballots, proceeding without oral nominations.

A. A two-thirds majority for a person on any of the first four ballots shall result in an election, on the fifth ballot a simple majority of votes cast shall be required.

B. Names appearing on ballots shall be as follows:

1. Any member of the Executive Committee.

(Note: After the results of this ballot are reported, any person receiving votes thereon who would be unable or unwilling to serve as president may withdraw.)

2. Names appearing on first ballot, minus those who have withdrawn.
3. The four names with the highest numbers of votes on the second ballot;
4. The three names with the highest numbers of votes on the third ballot;
5. The two names with the highest numbers of votes on the fourth ballot. (In the event of a tie after the fifth ballot is reported, another ballot shall be cast. If the tie persists after the recasting, lots shall be drawn to determine the person elected.)
5. That each ballot shall be reported in full, and the report shall contain:
  - Numbers of votes cast;
  - Numbers of invalid ballots, if any;
  - Numbers of votes required for election;
  - Numbers of votes for each person, from highest to lowest.
6. That the Constitution Committee serve as the election committee.

## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

## Part II

## OPENING

- (1) Bishop Crumley opened the meeting and introduced the members of the Committee. He then invited other participants to introduce themselves. The Committee dealt with five main items.

1. Election Procedure for President of the Federation

- (2) The Committee discussed what many consider to be the unwritten tradition of the Federation to elect the President from the church that hosts the Assembly. It felt strongly that, although the procedure for presidential election should not be changed, the site for the Assembly should not prejudice the choice of the president. If a church invites the LWF to hold an Assembly in its area, it must not be automatically assumed that the next LWF president must come from that church. The Assembly must be free to choose from among all available candidates.

2. Process for Election of New Leadership in Case of Incapacity, Resignation or Death of the President

- (3) After a long discussion the Committee made 6 recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the election procedure of a new President (see Exhibit 17, Part I).
- (4) The Committee then discussed whether the Constitution should be amended in such a way that the Executive Committee would be authorized to elect a president ad interim from its membership in case of incapacity, or until the end of the term in the event of resignation or death. The Committee will propose that the Executive Committee recommend to the Assembly an amendment to Article VI.3 of the Constitution which will empower the Executive Committee to elect a president in such circumstances. An amendment to the bylaws will also be required.

3. Election Procedure for General Secretary

- (5) The Committee noted that the Assembly in Budapest did not endorse the amendment to the procedure which had been proposed by the former Executive Committee for election of the General Secretary. The Constitution Committee will discuss this item at a future meeting.

#### 4. Article III.1 of the LWF Constitution

- (6) The General Secretary reported about his meeting with the leadership of the Lutheran Church in Australia. After discussion the Committee recommends to the Executive Committee the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

- (7) 1. At its Seventh Assembly, the LWF amended its Constitution (III.1) by inserting the paragraph: "The member churches of the LWF understand themselves to be in pulpit and altar fellowship with each other; and
- (8) 2. The General Secretary has been asked for an interpretation of how this paragraph bears on an application for membership; and
- (9) 3. Pulpit and altar fellowship among Lutherans is fundamental to expressing their communion with each other, and such communion is basic to the more comprehensive communion of churches which we confess in the creeds and affirm in the Lutheran confessions; and
- (10) 4. At the time of its adoption the Assembly delegation though regarding pulpit and altar fellowship as a theological matter of great significance, was also aware that for a few member churches it could only be a commitment toward which they were prepared to work over a period of years; and
- (11) 5. Such a concept of commitment toward progress precludes a legalistic interpretation of the Assembly action; and
- (12) 6. It is a function of the member churches of the LWF to help each other in the ongoing process toward a full realization of pulpit and altar fellowship

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

- (13) that it is the understanding of the Executive Committee of the LWF that the second paragraph of article III.1 of the Constitution is not a precondition for membership. That is, a church which meets all of the requirements for membership in the LWF but has not yet declared itself in pulpit and altar fellowship with member churches can be received. However, if a church so applying explicitly takes exception to this provision, it could not be received.

#### 5. Dual Membership in LWF

- (14) The Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs reported on his discussions on dual membership with the General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. As the WARC has member churches (united churches) which are also members of other confessional bodies it does not perceive any problem in dual membership. The Constitution Committee does not see any constitutional obstacle to receive such churches and suggests to the Standing Committee on Membership that each application be considered individually and recommendation to the Executive Committee be made on the basis of all appropriate criteria.

6. Miscellaneous Items

- (15) a. Procedure for election of Executive Committee regarding its representation (men-women-youth)
- (16) The Committee discussed implementation of the resolution of the Budapest Assembly with regard to the representation of women on the Executive Committee. The general agreement was that it is impossible and undesirable to amend the Constitution or bylaws concerning the election of the Executive Committee by the Assembly. The LWF should make every effort to encourage member churches to nominate women when they choose their candidates for the Executive Committee. It can also refer to examples where member churches have chosen women instead of presiding officers as candidates for the Executive Committee.
- (17) c. Authority/jurisdiction of Assembly, Executive Committee, Officers, and Commissions
- (18) It was noted that LWF documents are not clear and precise so far as the authority and jurisdiction of decision-making units are concerned. This ambiguity sometimes creates tension between units and makes coordination difficult.
- (19) The Committee discussed the possibility of defining responsibilities more clearly and spoke of examples where problems had arisen. It was agreed that some preliminary work would be done on this item and a proposal be attempted for a future meeting of the Executive Committee.



## REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson: The Rt. Rev. Kleopas Dumeni

Members: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Horst Gienke  
Ms. Maria Gomez  
Ms. Sieghilde Hoerschelmann  
The Rev. Karsten Nissen  
The Most Rev. Dr. Bertil Frederic Werkstroem

Adviser: The Rt. Rev. Amtse Songsare

Staff: Anza Lema  
Ms. Irmhild Reichen-Young

Interpreters: Ms. Ingrid Jonas  
Ms. Margaret A. Pater

## OPENING

- (1) Bishop Dumeni welcomed all participants and called upon Dr. Anza Lema to open the meeting with devotions.

## STAFF REPORT

- (2) The Associate General Secretary presented the staff report and agenda.

## BANGLADESH LUTHERAN CHURCH

- (3) Dr. Lema informed the Committee of his visit to this small new member church which works in a non Christian environment, noting especially that it collaborates with Hindus and Moslems on various projects.

## THE SALVADORAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

- (4) This church which was accepted by the Executive Committee in 1986 has now become a full member of the LWF.

## THE NORTH WESTERN GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

- (5) The decision of the Executive Committee in 1986 has been followed up by correspondence. As no progress in reconciliation had been made between the applicant church and the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Committee did not see any possibility of accepting this church into membership.

- (6) IT THEREFORE RECOMMENDS: that the Associate General Secretary write a letter to Bishop Tudu of the Northern Evangelical Church and to Dr. Rajaratnam, Executive Secretary of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India, encouraging them to foster reconciliation between the two parties.
- (7) It is hoped that a positive report can be brought back to the 1988 meeting of the Executive Committee.

#### THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MALAWI

- (8) As all the material regarding application for membership has been received and the recommendations from neighboring churches are positive,
- (9) THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi be accepted into full membership with immediate effect.

#### THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

- (10) Dr. Lema reported that a letter had been received from the newly elected presiding bishop of the ELCA, the Rt. Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, informing the General Secretary that at its constituting convention this year the ELCA had taken official action to join the Lutheran World Federation. The Committee felt that this application should be seen as simply a formality because all three merging churches were members of the LWF.
- (11) IT THEREFORE RECOMMENDS: that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be accepted into full membership with immediate effect.

#### SVENSKA MISSIONSFOERBUNDET (The Mission Covenant Church of Sweden)

- (12) The Committee was informed that the enquiry received last year from one of the church leaders of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden was not an official application. Dr. Lema reported that a letter had been received from Dr. Tord Harlin of the Church of Sweden explaining that in discussions with the leader of the Svenska Missionsfoerbundet it has been confirmed that the enquiry about LWF was informal and should not be pursued at the moment. Ongoing discussions are taking place in a dialogue group between the enquiring church and the Church of Sweden.

#### CHURCH OF LIPPE

- (13) Dr. Lema reported that a letter from the Executive Secretary of the German National Committee had been received with the following resolution:
- (14) With appreciation the GNC/LWF takes notice of the application of the Lutheran Section of the Church of Lippe to be recognized as eligible to participate in the work of the LWF and brings its positive comment before the Executive Committee.
- (15) In the letter it is noted that the discussions in the German National Committee had referred to the LWF Constitution, art. IV.2, Recognized churches, councils and congregations, and to the bylaws, article 2.4.2 Recognized church or recognized council.
- (16) After a short discussion of the application of the Lutheran Section (Lutherische Klasse) of the Church of Lippe,
- (17) THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: that the Lutheran Section of the Church of Lippe be accepted as an associate member of the LWF.

#### INDONESIAN CHRISTIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (GKLI)

- (18) Dr. Lema informed the Committee that he had received a report from the Ephorus of the GKLI stating that the property dispute between this church and the HKBP had been settled. Since, however, no official letter of recommendation had been received from the Ephorus of the HKBP, the Committee asked the Associate General Secretary to write to the HKBP for their advice regarding the membership of the GKLI.

#### DUAL MEMBERSHIP

- (19) The Associate General Secretary informed the Committee about the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Constitution to the Executive Committee with regard to dual membership. The Committee received the positive proposal of the Standing Committee on Constitution regarding the matter of dual membership as information.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- (20) The chairperson thanked the Associate General Secretary for all his work in connection with applications for membership and especially for the preparation of this meeting of the Standing Committee on Membership. The meeting was then adjourned.





